

UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
Celebrating
60 years of
INTEGRATION
1948-2008

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PREFACE

July 26, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of Executive Order 9981, issued by President Truman. This order established equality of treatment and opportunity for all members of the armed services, regardless of race, color, religion, or national origin. The path was set for desegregation of the services and the integration of women following the issuance of Executive Order 9981. The following document reviews historical laws, policies, and trends which influenced the desegregation of the services, starting with the Colonial Era and moving through to the present day. The contributions of Native Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Women are discussed for each time period.

Master Sergeant Michael Ledesma, U.S. Army, served as an Equal Opportunity Advisor/Facilitator at DEOMI from October 2004 through July 2008. While at DEOMI he served as a platform instructor and small group trainer. He also participated as a member of the Mobile Training Team for senior leaders and was a faculty trainer that certified trainers on DEOMI curriculum and conducted trainer professional development courses.

Ms. Rebecca Marcum, DEOMI Social Scientist and Dr. Erin Moeser, DEOMI Research Psychologist, served as contributing authors in the production of this manual.

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INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED SERVICES: INTRODUCTION

The history of the U.S. military attests to its success in overcoming skepticism and suspicion within its own ranks when compelled to do so by political mandate or practical dictates. Despite repeated resistance, the U.S. military has throughout its history created cohesive and effective fighting units out of a fractious and diverse collection of civilians, integrating service members with vast differences in cultural background, religious practices, and language and belief systems. In an effort to detail these lessons of successful integration of diverse civilian personnel into the military, this paper will explore the laws and policies that impacted the integration of the U.S. armed forces during the periods of the Colonial Era up to 1940, the integration period from 1940 to 1965, and the post integration period from 1965 to present day 2008.

As this paper explores the path of integration within the military ranks, it is essential to illustrate how social norms in the U.S. brought about different challenges and pressures for government and military leaders during each era in U.S. history. Law and policy development, which usually revolved around acceptable social norms, was impacted by these challenges and pressures. This led to the development of some laws and policies that violated acceptable social norms, and subsequently the exclusion of select groups within the U.S. populous. Some of the main groups excluded at one time or another (and at times still in present day 2008) within the U.S. society range from Native Americans to Black slaves, extending to Hispanics, Asians and women, and at times Irish, Italian and Polish Americans. These historical trends can be traced back to the Colonial Era through present day 2008 and cross many racial, ethnic, national origin, gender and religious lines (to name a few categories). Note that exclusion covers a wide range and can include disability or age, as is the case today. For the purposes of this review, the main focus of integration will revolve around race, ethnicity and gender.

As changes in wartime situations continue to challenge leaders, how will military and U.S. government leaders assess, develop and manage policies that involve and fully include women in combat roles, determine if homosexuals can effectively serve, understand how to effectively accommodate service members of various religions and accept the challenge of returning disabled war veterans to active duty? The bottom line is that leaders must implement effective policies and programs to maximize individual and organizational combat effectiveness while being inclusive of all groups.

In considering these challenges, military and civilian leaders need to continually revisit the history of the United States and of the U.S. military. Lest we forget our past, it will more than likely come back to haunt us and degrade military readiness. As our U.S. history has confirmed, recruitment of groups deemed not acceptable for military service has only been accepted during times of need. Every time an excluded group was recruited based on need, each group went above and beyond the call of duty to prove their worth in the defense of our great nation. This concept is sometimes known as reject, recruit, and reject (Nalty, & MacGregor, 1981). Demographic shifts in racial, gender, cultural, age, abilities, knowledge, technology, religion, national origin, etc. will always be factors that impact policies and leaders must always be aware of their environments and prepared for change.

As the United States Military celebrates 60 years of integration in the year 2008, it is imperative to revisit the accomplishments, successes and struggles of integration.

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SEGREGATION DURING THE COLONIAL ERA TO 1940

COLONIAL ERA

Regardless of which group of people fought for the United States of America, Native Americans or immigrants, each group contributed to the success of a great nation with honor. Both men and women continue to serve with honor; however, some groups have had to prove their worthiness to serve their nation. From the Colonial Period to the War on Terrorism in 2008, Native Americans, Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders Women and many others have fought to defend the United States. However, in analyzing the history and making of the United States, several state and federal laws have limited certain groups from fully participating either in public life, government office or military institutions.

Black Americans

During the Colonial Era, free Blacks, Slaves, and Native Americans fought in and with the Continental Army, and the war between the United States and Great Britain “made Black free men an attractive source of military manpower” (Nalty & MacGregor, 1991, p.15). However, the enlistment of troops who were not White depended upon the state, as not all states allowed non-Whites to enter the military. For example, Maryland excluded both slaves and free Blacks from its militia; yet in Virginia, free Blacks could serve as laborers or musicians, which released Whites for actual combat (Nalty & MacGregor, 1981). On 8 October 1775, the Council of War of the Continental Army “Agreed, unanimously, to reject all slaves, and, by a great majority, to reject Negroes altogether” (Nalty & MacGregor, 1991, p.7). Regardless, Massachusetts continued to enlist free Blacks into the Continental Army and even South Carolina approved the use of slaves as military laborers. These military laborers were

employed without arms as they helped construct fortifications to defend Charleston in 1775. In Rhode Island, a battalion of some 200 Blacks was commanded by COL Christopher Greene, a White Officer from July 1778 until June 1780 (Nalty & MacGregor, 1991, p.11). In the U.S. Navy, Blacks were enlisted under a quota of 5%, were used primarily as laborers, and did not hold officer ranks (Nalty & MacGregor, 1991, p.18). The Marine Corps remained “racially exclusive” until World War II (Nalty & MacGregor, 1991, p.14). In many cases, Black slaves were granted freedom when they were accepted to enlist in the military. Many states developed plans to enlist slaves or free Blacks into the militia or Continental Army, but these policies were used with caution as government and military leaders feared slave uprisings.

Native Americans – A Long Tradition of Participation

American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).

"I think they [Indians] can be made of excellent use, as scouts and light troops." — Gen. George Washington, 1778

Many Native American tribes were involved in the War of 1812, and Indians fought for both sides as auxiliary troops in the Civil War. Scouting the enemy was recognized as a particular skill of the Native American soldier. In 1866, the U.S. Army

established its Indian Scouts to exploit this aptitude. The Scouts were active in the American West in the late 1800s and early 1900s, accompanying Gen. John J. Pershing's expedition to Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916. They were deactivated in 1947 when their last member retired from the Army in ceremonies at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. Native Americans from Indian Territory were also recruited by Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and saw action in Cuba in the Spanish-American War in 1898. As the military entered the 20th century, American Indians had already made a substantial contribution through military service and were on the brink of playing an even larger role. (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).

Women's Participation

The role of women within the military ranks has always been limited, if not prevented altogether. Regardless of norms or laws, women have always contributed to the nation's wars.

According to historical archives, Deborah Sampson is the first known woman to enlist in the military during the American Revolution. At age 22, she put on male clothing, adopted the name Robert Shurtliff, and enlisted in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment for a three year term. In an attempt to keep her gender disclosed, Deborah Sampson treated her own wounds, but developed a fever that required medical assistance and eventually led to her military discharge. (Women in Military Service for America, *n.d.a*).

Historians have also verified the actions of an Oneida woman, Tyonajanegen (a Native American), at the battle of Oriskany during the American Revolution (1775-1783). Tyonajanegen was married to an American Army officer of Dutch descent. She fought at her husband's side on horseback during the battle, loading her husband's gun for him after he was shot in the wrist. Sacajawea, a Shoshone woman, accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition of the early 19th century (Department of Defense, *n.d.b*).



In 1830, the U.S. Coast Guard officially assigned women as keepers in the Lighthouse Service (U.S. Coast Guard Office of Civil Rights, 2007).

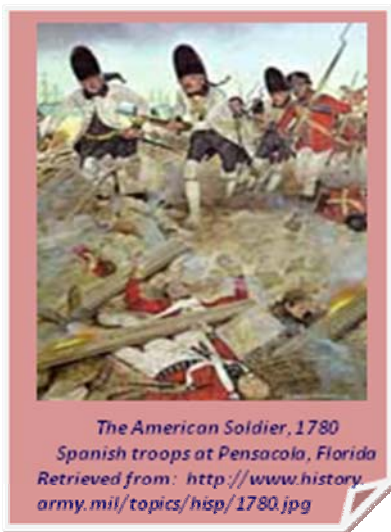
The Spanish during the American Revolution

After the Seven Years War (French & Indian War) in 1763, Great Britain controlled East and West Florida, which extended to the Mississippi River, and the province included Pensacola, Mobile, and the Natchez district of present-day Mississippi. The Spanish capital was in New Orleans; thus allowing Spain to largely control the traffic up and down the Mississippi. (Blythe, *n.d.*) Therefore, with America engaged in a revolution against Great Britain, the Spanish in New Orleans were providing secret aid to the Americans. In June of 1779, motivated by revenge for lost possessions, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Gen. Bernardo de Galvez, decided to eliminate the British holdings in East and West Florida, therefore thrusting Spain into the American Revolution (Blythe, *n.d.*; U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003).

Gen. de Galvez's forces secured the Mississippi River ports of Manchaca, Baton Rouge, and Natchez, and in 1780 his troops took Mobile. They then prepared to "crown their successes" by capturing Pensacola, the seat of the British government in West Florida (U.S. Army Center of

Military History, 2003). According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (2003):

A direct hit was scored on 8 May 1780, killing approximately one hundred men and destroying one of the redoubts. This campaign relieved pressure on the southern states. Here, amid the destruction from the exploded Fort George magazine, the painting depicts a grenadier officer of the Louisiana Regiment urging his troops to the assault. The Louisiana Regiment was organized in 1765 and their uniform, consisting of a white coat with blue facings and yellow buttons over a blue vest and breeches, was established at that time. The figure in the red jacket with yellow lace and buttons and blue facings, wearing a low crowned leather cap and white breeches, is from the Company of Free Blacks of Havana.



WAR OF 1812

In the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson took command of the defenses, including militia from several western states and territories. On January 8, 1815, Jackson's 4,000 militiamen won a total victory over 10,000 British. The war (especially this victory) and his role as a senior commander during the American Revolution made Jackson a national hero (Wikipedia, 2008a). This would serve as a key element in some of the racial and ethnic attitudes in the development of future governmental policies, as Jackson later became President of the United States.

PRE-CIVIL WAR

In December of 1817, prior to becoming president, Andrew Jackson was charged with leading a campaign in Georgia against the Seminole and Creek Indians. He was also charged with preventing Spanish Florida from becoming a refuge for runaway slaves. Eventually, Jackson would end up fighting against the Seminoles, invading Florida and capturing Pensacola. The capture of Pensacola stirred up an international incident with Spain, who eventually ceded Florida to the United States (Wikipedia, 2008b). This was the beginning of "Manifest Destiny," which was the belief that the United States was destined to expand from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific seaboard. However, many U.S. citizens did not believe that the U.S. would expand past the Mississippi River (Wikipedia, 2008b).

Indian Removal Act

Andrew Jackson had a paternalistic attitude toward Native Americans and believed that a removal policy would benefit the Indians. Consequently, in 1830, just a year after taking office, Jackson pushed a new piece of legislation called the "Indian Removal Act" through both houses of Congress. This Act gave the president power to negotiate removal treaties with Indian tribes living east of the Mississippi. These negotiated treaties would or should end in an

agreement in which Indians would cede their lands east of the Mississippi in exchange for lands in the west. As a result, the Choctaws were the first to sign a removal treaty, in September of 1830. The removal was supposed to be voluntary and peaceful; however, some Choctaw and southeastern nations resisted, and President Jackson forced them to leave (Wikipedia, 2008a).

The Creeks were one of the resisting nations, but in 1832 they signed a treaty which “opened a large portion of their Alabama land to White settlement, but guaranteed them protected ownership of the remaining portion” (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). However, the government did not protect the Creeks, and they were quickly cheated out of their lands. “By 1835 the destitute Creeks began stealing livestock and crops from White settlers. Some eventually committed arson and murder in retaliation for their brutal treatment” (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). Consequently, “the Secretary of War ordered the removal of the Creeks as a military necessity. By 1837, approximately 15,000 Creeks had migrated west” (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b).

The Chickasaws had seen removal as inevitable and signed a treaty in 1832. The Cherokee, on the other hand, were tricked with an illegitimate treaty, which was ratified in 1836. “The Cherokee were given two years to migrate. At the end of two years, only 2,000 had migrated and 16,000 remained on their land (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). The U.S. government responded by sending 7000 troops in to force the Cherokees to move westward. This move became known as the Trail of Tears, “in which 4,000 Cherokee people died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands” (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). According to the Public Broadcasting Service (2008b):

By the end of 1837, the Jackson administration had removed 46,000 Native American people from their land east of the Mississippi, and had secured treaties which led to the

removal of a slightly larger number. Most members of the five southeastern nations had been relocated west, opening 25 million acres of land to White settlement and to slavery.

During the period of the *Indian Removal Act*, the United States struggled in trying to force the southeastern nations to the west (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). These struggles lead to the *Second Seminole War*, which lasted from 1835 to 1842. During this war, slave fugitives fought side-by-side with the Seminoles and, by the end of the war, most Seminoles had moved west. The few that stayed had to continue defending themselves from 1855-1858, which is known as the *Third Seminole War* (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008b). With the United States continuing to grow and expand, the nearing Civil War was inevitable.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1861 – 1865

The American Civil War was one of the country’s most dreadful and bloody wars, which began when the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War provided an opportunity for Black slaves and freeman to serve their country and relinquish their chains by proving their inclusive worthiness to this nation (Sylvester, 1995). On the Confederate side, Black slaves fought with their masters; however, there was widespread resistance by Whites on both sides (Union and Confederacy) to accept Blacks as part of the military. This resistance was echoed by the Union Secretary of War when he issued the following statement:

“This Department has no intention at the present to call into service of the government any colored soldiers” (Sylvester, 1995).

Consequently, the need for able-bodied fighting men led many states to swear Blacks into separate regiments of all Black troops (Sylvester, 1995). Moreover, even though there was resistance, Nalty

and MacGregor (1981, p.19) point out that many Union commanders came to welcome Blacks as laborers, sources of military intelligence, and ultimately as combat troops. Likewise, commanders like Major General (MG) John C. Frémont, commander of the Department of the West, and General Hunter, commander of the Department of the South, emancipated slaves in Missouri, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. However, due to the fragile Union borders and a fear that bordering States may turn their support to the Confederacy, Abraham Lincoln was forced to overrule the emancipations (Nalty & MacGregor, 1981, p.19). Therefore, with the Union attempting to balance maintaining control of the war and sustaining enough manpower to fight a war, Congress eventually revoked the militia laws banning Blacks from serving in the Union Army in August of 1862. Soon afterward, Abraham Lincoln issued *The Emancipation Proclamation*, on January 1, 1863, “freeing all slaves in areas still in rebellion” (Sylvester, 1995). With the implementation of *The Emancipation Proclamation*, the door for Blacks to fully participate in the Civil War was opened.

On May 1, 1863, the War Department created the BUREAU OF COLORED TROOPS in order to handle the recruitment and organization of all black regiments. These units were known as the UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS, and all units were commanded by White officers (Sylvester, 1995).

Six-hundred and twenty thousand Americans died during the Civil War. Over 200,000 African Americans served during the Civil War; over 38,000 Blacks died, and 24 were awarded the meritorious Congressional Medals of Honor (Sylvester, 1995).

Meanwhile, as the United States continued to attract immigrants looking for opportunity, the Asian population, primarily Chinese, was growing.

By the time the Civil War began, thousands of Asians were living in the U.S. and many served with distinction in the U.S. Army. Edward Day Cohota and Private Joseph L. Pierce were two Chinese Americans who served the Union during the Civil War.

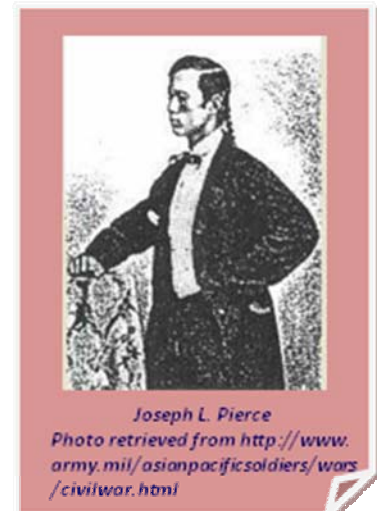
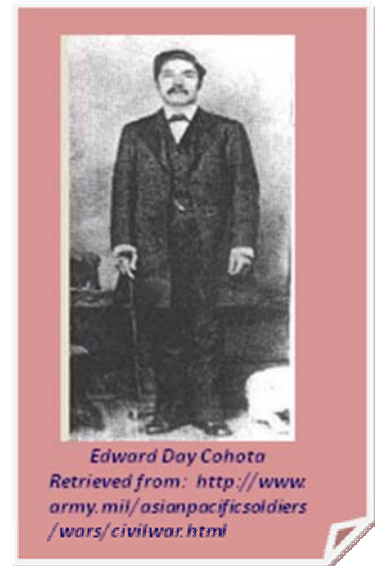
Edward Day Cohota, a Chinese and a U.S. Army hero, joined the 23rd Massachusetts Infantry at the outbreak of the Civil War. He fought in the Battle of Drury’s Bluff near Richmond, Va., on May 16, 1864, and at the Battle of Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, 1864.

He stayed with the Army of the Potomac through the end of the war. After serving in the

U.S. Army for 30 years, Cohota believed that his military service qualified him for U.S. citizenship. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion act, a legal measure enacted to cease the immigration of Chinese laborers into the United States. Because Cohota had not submitted his second set of naturalization papers prior to the passing of this Act, he was ultimately unable to gain American citizenship (U.S. Army, *n.d.*).

Twenty-one-year-old Private Joseph L. Pierce was born in Canton in the Kwangtung Province in China. He enlisted in the 14th Connecticut Infantry in August of 1862. Pierce’s regiment

participated in the Battle of Antietam, Maryland, on Sept. 17, 1862. He suffered some sickness while around Washington and spent time in



the hospital. He was assigned to the Quartermaster Department for a bit and rejoined the 14th in time for the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. in May 1863. The 14th had a distinguished role in the Gettysburg campaign, fought on the north part of Cemetery Ridge on July 2, was one of the units that helped repel Pickett's Charge, and was primarily responsible for turning back Brig. Gen. James Pettigrew's North Carolina division. The 14th's regimental history says that during Pickett's charge, Pierce appeared "pig-tail and all, the only Chinese in the Army of the Potomac;" however, history shows that he was not the only Soldier of Chinese descent. Today, you can see the 14th Memorial to the north of the grove of trees marking the high-water mark of the Confederacy (U.S. Army, *n.d.*).

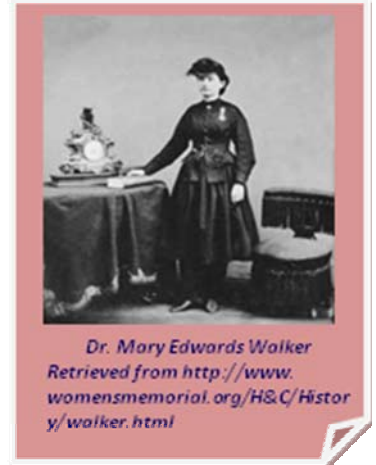
As history has recorded many different men of numerous ethnic and racial backgrounds who distinguished themselves during the Civil War, women also participated with distinction in a War in which they were banned from fighting.

Many women participated in the Civil War, even though they were banned from enlisting. Two women who took active roles with the military were Clarissa Harlow Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, and Dr. Mary Walker, the sole woman to have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

Clarissa Harlow Barton, better known currently as American Red Cross Founder Clara Barton, became involved in the Civil War at the age of 39. Clara took her 50 year old married sister, Sally Vassall, with her on medical visits "Because it wasn't proper for a single lady to visit Army camps and hospitals unescorted." Clara wanted to do more by nursing wounded soldiers on the battlefield, yet she did not want to shame her family. When her 80 year old father was on his deathbed, he instructed her to go out and help the wounded. Eventually, she received a pass from Colonel Daniel H. Rucker, head of the Quartermaster Depot in Washington, D.C., to go to the front lines at Fredericksburg, VA. Clara Barton worked in a surgery ward and continued to serve as a nurse close to the front lines at the Battles of Antietam and Marye's Heights, the Wilderness Campaign, Hilton Head and Battery

Wagner. After the Civil War, Clara Barton worked to establish the American wing of the international Red Cross (Oates, 1994).

Dr. Mary Walker was a surgeon during the Civil War and became the sole woman to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Dr. Walker received a prestigious award at a time when women's roles were limited. When the Civil War started in 1861, Dr. Walker volunteered her services at the Indiana Hospital in Washington, D.C.



She hoped to eventually secure a commission and pay, however, military leaders refused to pay her for her services. Eventually, Dr. Walker gained experience in military medicine and went back to school where she earned a second medical diploma. Still unable to secure a medical commission or a salary with the Army, Dr. Walker went to the front lines. Finally, in 1864, Dr. Walker received a civilian surgeon contract with the 52nd Ohio Volunteers. During her time with the Ohio Volunteers, Dr. Walker also cared for the civilian populous, which involved crossing Union and Confederate lines, leading to her capture by the Confederacy. Her time as a Prisoner of War resulted in vision problems. At the end of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson granted Dr. Walker the Medal of Honor. However, two years prior to her death, the Medal of Honor Board removed Dr. Walker's name from the list of recipients. In 1977, the Army Board of Corrections posthumously restored the Medal of Honor to Dr. Mary Walker, stating that:

Her acts of distinguished gallantry, self sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and unflinching loyalty to her country, despite the apparent discrimination because of her sex,

made the award of the Medal of Honor to Walker appropriate (Graf, 2001).

LAWS, CASES AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACT PRIOR TO THE INTEGRATION LAWS OF THE 1940S

While the United States continued to expand and recover from the Civil War, Native Americans, Blacks, women, and other minority groups continued to struggle for full inclusion in U.S. society. Several groups were still fighting for citizenship and challenging the Constitution of the United States, even though they had fought vigilantly for the defense of the country. Many were still denied citizenship, freedom and full participation in public institutions. One of these challenges to the U.S. Constitution began when Dred Scott, a slave, challenged his right to freedom.

Dred Scott vs. Sanford (1857)

Even though President Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, “freeing all slaves in areas still in rebellion,” not all slaves were free. Hence, Dred Scott versus Sanford set the stage for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that people of African descent were not citizens of the United States and could not become citizens.

Furthermore, Chief Just Roger B. Taney, “declared that all blacks- -slaves as well as free- -were not and could never become citizens of the United States” (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008a).

Consequently, since Negroes and their ancestors were imported into this country and sold as slaves, they were not entitled

the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to citizens and therefore were not entitled to due process as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States (Public Broadcasting Service, 2008a). Since Dred Scott was not entitled to the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, he had no right to sue in court. The Dred Scott case continued to exclude Blacks from community participation and representation, even though slaves were considered to be free in some states.

13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

On January 31, 1865, Congress passed the 13th Amendment, which was ratified by the States on December 6, 1865. The 13th Amendment declared:

Section 1. Neither ‘slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

(U.S. Constitution Online, 2008a)

Finally, legislation freeing all slaves in all states was enacted. Yet many people, mainly Blacks and Native Americans, were still denied U.S. citizenship. This denial prevented protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Civil Rights Act of 1866

The Civil Rights Act of 1866 gave citizenship to people born in the U.S., primarily former slaves. This Act allowed those with citizenship to fully participate in society as White citizens; however the majority of Native Americans were not included under the Civil Rights Act of 1866. During this timeframe, Native American Tribes were governed under the laws of treaties



with the U.S. government. Additionally, previously excluded Asians received citizenship. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 stated:

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens, of every race and color, without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States, to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, and penalties, and to none other, any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding” (Civil Rights Act of 1866, n.d.).

With the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, Congress had to focus on ensuring that States were providing equal protection to all people. Therefore in 1868, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was passed.

14th Amendment

Ratified on July 9, 1868 the 14th Amendment provided equal protection to all people as stated in Section 1. Section 1 to the 14th Amendment states:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor

shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” (U.S. Constitution Online, 2008b).

While people with citizenship had equal protection, many still did not have the right to vote, particularly Blacks and women. This led to the passing of the 15th Amendment on February 3, 1870.

15th Amendment

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted African American men (still excluding all women) the right to vote by declaring that the:

“right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude” (U.S. Constitution Online, 2008c).

The right to vote may have been granted to all (male) American citizens in 1870, but not all citizens were able to practice that right until the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Before this act was passed, institutionally discriminatory practices such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and other means were used by some states to prevent some (mainly Blacks) from registering to vote.

As a result of the passing of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, previously excluded groups of people were participating in society with more inclusion; however, social norms continued to put limits on participation for minority groups and women. Therefore, to check the validity of the newly passed amendments, Homer Plessy would be one of the first to test his rights of due process guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896) – "Separate but Equal"

Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896) set the stage for what would be known in U.S. society as "separate but equal." Homer Plessy filed a lawsuit with the U.S. Supreme court against John Howard Ferguson, a Louisiana District Judge, who stated that the "Separate Car Act" in Louisiana did not violate the constitutional rights (13th and 14th Amendments) of Homer Plessy. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the "Separate Car Act" of Louisiana did not discriminate against Homer Plessy as long as there were "separate but equal accommodations for both Whites and Blacks" (Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society, *n.d.*). The U.S. Supreme Court ruling set the stage for other U.S. institutions to provide separate accommodations for Whites and Blacks, which were not equal. These social norms of separate but equal carried over into the armed forces and led to segregated units.

Now with the Civil War at an end, immigration into the United States continued to increase, as did unemployment. Increases in immigration and dwindling jobs led U.S. government leaders to implement the *Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*.

Chinese Exclusion Act - 1882

This act provided an absolute 10-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration. For the first time, Federal law proscribed entry of an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the good order of certain localities (*Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*, 2003).

The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act "refused State and Federal courts the right to grant citizenship to Chinese resident aliens" (*Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*, 2003). In 1892, Congress extended the Act for 10 years in the form of the Geary Act. In 1902, the Act was made permanent with additional restrictions requiring each "Chinese

resident to register and obtain a certificate of residence. Without a certificate, she or he faced deportation." The Geary Act regulated Chinese immigration until the 1920s (*Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*, 2003; Library of Congress, 2003).



Johnson-Reed Act – 1924

Similar to the years after the Civil War, pre-World War I immigration continued to increase. This led to a growing public opinion against the flow of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Once again, Congress passed an immigration act known as the first Quota Act of 1921. Then, in 1924, Congress passed the Johnson-Reed Act, which imposed restrictions on immigration of "less than 20 percent of the pre-World War I average" (American Social History Project, *n.d.*). This percentage was based on the number of immigrants from any particular nation that was recorded in the 1890 census. Immigration from Southern and Eastern European countries was therefore significantly impacted, as there were large migrations from these countries after 1890 (American Social History Project, *n.d.*).

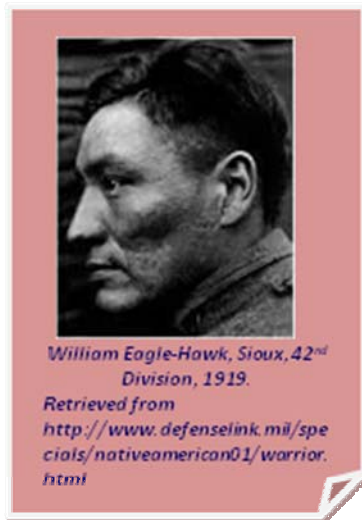
SEGREGATION IN MILITARY UNITS DURING WWI AND WWII AND GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES

World War I (1917-1918)

As the United States continued to struggle with racism, immigration policies, and providing equal rights to all citizens, World War I began knocking on the door of the U.S. military. This war led many previously excluded groups to volunteer to fight and defend a nation on foreign soil. Many groups felt that their service to the nation would earn them respect and acceptance in society.

Native Americans

It is estimated that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the United States military in World War I. Approximately 600 Oklahoma Indians, mostly Choctaw and Cherokee, were assigned to the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division. The 142nd saw action in France and its soldiers were widely recognized for their contributions in battle. Four men from this unit were awarded the *Croix de Guerre*, while others received the *Church War Cross* for gallantry (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).



Black Americans

African Americans volunteered to be combat soldiers in the first major war fought on foreign shores, and they fought with honor (Sylvester, 1995). Even though Blacks were still being “reluctantly accepted into the larger body of the United States Armed Forces,” community pressure led to the organization of two major all Black units, the 92nd and 93rd (Sylvester, 1995). The 92nd was formed entirely of Black draftees. Most of the 92nd were kept out of combat and assigned only to labor battalions. The 92nd remained a second unit of the American Expeditionary Forces and were not integrated into other all White units.

However, with the escalation of World War I, the 93rd division was sent to France to fight side by side with the French troops. The 93rd division was later joined by the all Black 369th Infantry. According to Sylvester (1995):

These Black soldiers fought in combat at the battles of Argonne, Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel, Champagne, Vosges, and Metz. Over 367,000 Black Soldiers represented the United States in World War I. Only 10% of this number was assigned to combat during the war. The French were so indebted to these troops; they awarded the *Croix De Guerre* for “gallantry in action” to 171 men from these all Black units.

By the end of the war, Black Americans had proved their valor, and 1,300 were eventually commissioned and promoted to the ranks of officers in the United States Military for their duty in World War I. Six major units served in this war: the 92nd, 93rd, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd (Sylvester, 1995).

Below is a timeline of key events involving Black Americans during and after World War I and pre World War II (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*).

For more information on the Timeline, go to <http://www.redstone.army.mil/history/integrate/CHRON3.html>.

- **1917** Dr. Louis T. Wright, served during WWI as a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps. He introduced the injection method of smallpox vaccination eventually adopted by the U.S. Army.
- **1917** Lloyd A. Hall was appointed Assistant Chief Inspector of Powder and Explosives in the U.S. Ordnance Department. He held the position for 2 years.
- **1917** Noted architect Vertner W. Tandy was the first Black officer in the New York National Guard. Commissioned as a first lieutenant, he was later promoted to captain, then major.
- **1917** Alton Augustus Adams became the first Black bandleader in the U.S. Navy.

- **1917** The Army forced its highest-ranking African American officer to retire, supposedly because he was unfit for duty. Although Colonel Charles R. Young suffered from high blood pressure and Bright's disease, White leaders' rejection of Black proposals that Young command an all-Black division may actually have been the motive behind the Army's decision. Determined to continue his Army career, Young rode his horse from Ohio to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate his fitness for duty. However, he was not reinstated until November 1918, at which time the Army assigned him to Fort Grant, Illinois, where he trained Black troops.
- **1917** The American Red Cross rejected the applications of qualified African American nurses on the grounds that the U.S. Army did not accept Black women.
- **6 April 1917** The United States entered World War I after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. Over 367,000 African American soldiers served in this conflict, 1400 of whom were commissioned officers. Most Blacks were placed in noncombat Services of Supply (SOS) units (i.e., labor battalions); for example, 33 percent of the stevedore force in Europe was Black. At least 100,000 African Americans were sent to France during WWI. Despite the American restriction on the use of Blacks in combat units, about 40,000 African Americans fought in the war.
- **18 May 1917** Congress passed the Selective Service Act authorizing the registration and draft of all men between 21 and 30, including African Americans. About 700,000 Black men volunteered for the draft on the first day, while over 2 million ultimately registered.
- **19 May 1917** After Congress authorized 14 training camps for White officer candidates but none for African Americans, Black protests and pressure on Army officials and Congress forced the War Department to correct this discriminatory situation. On this date, the U.S. Army established the first all-Black officer training school at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. About half of the Black officers during the WWI were commissioned in the first 4 months after classes began on 15 June 1917. Of these officer candidates, 250 were drawn from the noncommissioned officers (NCOs) of the four Black Regular Army units.
- **21 May 1917** Leo Pinckney was the first African American drafted in WWI.
- **23 August 1917** Increasing racial tension involving U.S. servicemen eventually flared into a major riot in Texas where Black troops were assigned to Camp Logan to guard the construction of a training facility. Members of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 24th Infantry Regiment stationed in the Houston area had been provoked by weeks of racial harassment culminating in an attack on, then arrest of Corporal Charles W. Baltimore. These racial problems were compounded by the absence of the stabilizing influence of experienced Black NCOs and the presence of inexperienced and insensitive White officers. At least 100 unit members responded to the tense, rumor-charged situation by marching on the town, where they opened fire on the police station, killing 16 Whites (including 5 policemen) and wounding 12 others. In the next 14 months, the Army quickly court-martialed 6 men from the 1st Battalion and 149 from the 3rd in four separate trials. Army investigators identified individual soldiers involved and brought charges against each one separately. During the trial of the first 64 men charged, 5 were freed, 4 were convicted of lesser charges, 42 were given life sentences, and 13 were condemned to die. Another 16 men were condemned to hang in two later trials.
- **17 October 1917** The Army commissioned 639 Black officers who had been trained at the new all-Black facility established at Fort

Des Moines. By war's end, the school had produced 1400 commissioned officers, many of whom commanded labor battalions. Others, however, served in combat with distinction.

- **11 December 1917** The Army carried out the executions of the first 13 men (one of whom was Corporal Charles W. Baltimore) condemned to die for their role in the Houston riot.
- **27 December 1917** The 369th Infantry Regiment (or "Harlem Hellfighters") was the first all-Black U.S. combat unit to be shipped overseas during WWI. Because there was no official combat role at this time for America's Black soldiers, General John J. Pershing responded to France's request for troops by assigning the 369th (and the 93rd Division's other regiments) to the French army. The Germans dubbed the unit the "Hellfighters," because in 191 days of duty at the front they never had any men captured nor ground taken. Almost one-third of the unit died in combat. The French government awarded the entire regiment the Croix de Guerre. Sergeant Henry Johnson was the first African American to win this prestigious award when he singlehandedly saved Private Needham Roberts and fought off a German raiding party.
- **1917-18** African American women supported the WWI effort by organizing and serving as hostesses at YMCA centers for Black soldiers ready to embark for France. They also served as nurses with the integrated Field Medical Supply Depot in Washington, D.C.
- **1917-18** After the racial clashes in Texas and other parts of the United States, Army leaders became increasingly distrustful of the Army's longstanding Black units. The 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments never went to France. Instead the 24th Infantry spent the entire conflict guarding far-flung outposts on the Mexican border, while the 25th Infantry was sent to the Philippines and

Hawaii. The Army also abandoned its plans to raise 16 regiments to accommodate the numerous Black draftees, because it feared the likelihood of other violent racial incidents. It eventually activated the all-black 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions, both of which suffered during the war from incomplete training, the prejudice of White officers, inadequately prepared replacements, and the lack of Army enthusiasm and support. Compounding these handicaps was the fact that all too often during combat in WWI Black troops were also blamed unfairly for problems caused by inadequate White leadership as well as ineffectual combat planning and coordination.

- **1917-18** Although it was never formally organized as a division (it had only four infantry regiments and no service or support units), the 93rd Infantry Division actually achieved a better combat record than the 92nd Infantry Division. Much of the division's success in battle was the result of unit cohesiveness among the former National Guard unit members who made up the bulk of the 93rd Division's troops. Another important factor was the assignment of the division to the French, who trained, equipped, and fielded these men without regard to race. Strangely enough, White U.S. Army officers thought they were disparaging the combat effectiveness of the 93rd by attributing it to the integration of the French forces. It took the U.S. military three more decades and two more overseas wars to realize the inefficiency of its shortsighted and discriminatory policy of racial segregation.
- **1918** Ralph Waldo Tyler, a reporter and government official, was the first and only official African American war correspondent in WWI. The Committee on Public Information accredited Tyler to report on war news of interest to Black Americans.

- **June 1918** The all-Black 92nd ("Buffalo") Division, which had been activated in October 1917, arrived in France, and then moved to the front in August 1918. Formed entirely of African American draftees, many of the division's men (mainly those from the 365th and 366th regiments) were assigned to road-building details. However, members of the 367th and 368th regiments remained under fire almost constantly until the armistice of November 1918. Despite individual acts of heroism, Army leaders maintained that the division did not perform well under combat conditions. Much of their criticism was based on the 368th Infantry Regiment's inability to withstand the German assault in the Argonne forest in September 1918, although White units in the area suffered the same failure. After its transfer to another command, the 92nd Division's performance improved with better training and increased morale. For its combat success and bravery at Metz in November 1918, the French awarded the Croix de Guerre to the 1st Battalion, 367th Infantry Regiment. Unfortunately, the division's accomplishments could not overcome the racism of its White leadership. The latter's poor opinion of the unit, which they attributed to undesirable racial characteristics, had a significant impact on the U.S. armed forces' subsequent policies on the use of African American servicemen. The unit was disbanded after WWI, but was reactivated in October 1942 for duty during WWII.
- **7 August 1918** At the urging of U.S. Army officers, the French liaison to the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) Headquarters issued a "secret" memorandum instructing his fellow officers and civilian authorities on how to "handle" African American troops during WWI. To avoid any unpleasantness with the Americans, he advised other French officers to keep their distance from any Black officers, to give only moderate praise to Black troops, and to keep Black troops and White French women apart.
- **September 1918** The all-Black 809th Pioneer Infantry arrived in France. During the 14-day voyage aboard the troop ship *President Grant*, about half of the 5000 men on board fell ill with "Spanish flu" (a global influenza epidemic that killed millions of people in 1918-19). So many men died en route that their bodies had to be buried at sea. The first task allotted 75 of the unit's men upon the ship's arrival in France was that of unloading the bodies of additional flu victims. Called "Black Yankees" by the French (an ironic nickname since many of the 809th's men were from the South), this pioneer infantry unit (i.e., a construction crew) built hospitals and completed extensive repairs and new construction at the French port of St. Nazaire, where many American soldiers disembarked in WWI. Although trained to fight, the 809th worked mainly in construction until the Armistice.
- **3 September 1918** German propaganda leaflets dropped on African American troops attempted to exploit the contradictory attitudes reflected in American society. The Germans touched on a sensitive area by noting that black troops were sent to fight for democracy in Europe, while being denied this same personal freedom at home. The leaflets unsuccessfully urged Black soldiers to defect. "To carry a gun in this service is not an honor but a shame. Throw it away and come over to the German lines. You will find friends who will help you."
- **16 September 1918** The U.S. Army executed the last six soldiers sentenced to die for their involvement in the Houston riot. For the next two decades, the NAACP campaigned to win the release of the remaining imprisoned rioters. This effort eventually resulted in the freeing by 1938 of the last men involved in the deadly incident.
- **November 1918** The 369th (or "Harlem Hellfighters") was the first Allied regiment

to reach the Rhine River during the final offensive against Germany.

- **November 1918** Members of the 370th Infantry Regiment won 21 American Distinguished Service Crosses and 68 French Croix de Guerre during WWI. This all-black unit from Illinois fought in the last battle of WWI and captured a German train a few minutes after the Armistice was declared.
- **13 November 1918** The Army Nurses Corps accepted 18 Black nurses on an "experimental" basis following the influenza epidemic. The Army sent half of them to Camp Grant, Illinois, and the other half to Camp Sherman, Ohio. Although their living quarters were segregated, they were assigned to duties in an integrated hospital. Because of the postwar reduction in force, the Army released all 18 women in August 1919.
- The U.S. government did not award any of the 127 Medals of Honor earned in WWI to an African- American serviceman. This error was corrected on 24 April 1991, when President George Bush posthumously awarded the 128th WWI Medal of Honor to Corporal Freddie Stowers, a Black soldier killed on 28 September 1918 while leading an assault on a German-held hill in France.
- **1919** During the summer following the Armistice of November 1918, racial violence spawned serious riots in Texas, Nebraska, Illinois, Washington, D.C., and other parts of the United States. This same year, 10 veterans were among the 75 African Americans lynched by White mobs. Unlike most confrontations before and during WWI, however, African Americans fought back in these postwar flare-ups. Some scholars attribute this new spirit of resistance to the changed attitudes of Black veterans. Their experiences in the war as well as the lack of French racial prejudice toward them made many African American veterans unwilling to passively endure

continued discrimination and ill treatment once they returned to the United States.

- **14 July 1919** The U.S. Army prohibited African American soldiers from participating in the Bastille Day victory parade held in Paris.
- **June 1920** Congress passed the National Defense Act, which downsized the Army to 30,000 officers and enlisted men. All four of the Army's longstanding Black units survived the cutbacks, primarily because White leaders feared the legal and social ramifications of eliminating them. Necessity also dictated the retention of both infantry and cavalry units to prevent the possibility of integrating brigades as well as to provide troops for duty in the Philippines.
- **1922** Joseph H. Ward was named medical officer-chief of the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. He was the first African American appointed to head a VA hospital.

Hispanics

During World War I (1914-1918), over 200,000 Hispanics (mostly Mexican Americans) were mobilized. Due to rampant discrimination against Hispanic Soldiers with "Spanish surnames or Spanish accents," many were sometimes the objects of ridicule and relegated to menial jobs. Additionally, Soldiers who lacked English skills were sent to "special training centers to improve their language proficiency so that they could be integrated into the mainstream Army" (Schmal, 1999). The United State's participation lasted from April 1917 to November 1918, and many Hispanic Soldiers did not have the opportunity to go overseas and into combat (Schmal, 1999). However, two soldiers, Private David Barkeley (a Mexican American from Texas) and Private Marcelino Serna, an undocumented Mexican immigrant, who died in El Paso, Texas, were two Hispanic Soldiers who earned some of the nation's highest honors. David Barkeley's *Medal of Honor* citation read:

Citation: When information was desired as to the enemy's position on the opposite side of the Meuse River, Pvt. Barkeley, with another soldier, volunteered without hesitation and swam the river to reconnoiter the exact location. He succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, despite the evident determination of the enemy to prevent a crossing. Having obtained his information, he again entered the water for his return, but before his goal was reached, he was seized with cramps and drowned (Hispanic-American Medal of Honor Recipients, n.d.).

Private Marcelino Serna “single-handedly captured 24 German soldiers in France,” earning him the Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the Victory Medal with three bars, and two Purple Hearts (Schmal, 1999).

Puerto Ricans were not eligible for the draft until 1917, when the U.S. granted Puerto Ricans American citizenship. This new status made Puerto Rican men available for the military draft and subsequently 18,000 Puerto Ricans served as members of the American armed forces (Schmal, 1999). However, Puerto Ricans were racially segregated, and according to Schmal (1999) many were sent to the Panama Canal to guard against an enemy attack, while others were sent to Europe. Overall, recorded military history of Hispanic participation in WWI is limited.

Asians

Similar to Hispanics, information pertaining to Asian American's participation in WWI is very limited. However, during the period of World War I, many Asians were prevented from entering the United States or were ineligible for U.S. citizenship due to immigration and naturalization laws.



Women

There are several records depicting how women continually volunteered to fight and defend their country despite the fact that they did not have the right to vote. In 1901 and 1908, the Army and Navy Nurse Corps opened the door to women. Note that during this time period, Black Americans continued to struggle for acceptance, and Black women faced similar, if not harsher struggles. In spite of these struggles, women continued to be patriotic. When WWI began, the government began to get serious about using woman power due to shortages in male physicians (Wilson, 2004; Women in Military Service for America, n.d.b).

While the Army “stumbled around bureaucratic red tape trying to figure out how to enlist women,” the War Department continually thwarted the Army's repeated request to allow women to serve as clerks. The Navy simply ignored the War Department dissenters and quickly recruited women (Wilson, 2004). According to Wilson (2004), a retired Air Force Captain, nearly “13,000 women enlisted in the Navy and the Marine Corps on the same status as men and wore a uniform blouse with insignia.” This policy was extended to the Coast Guard, but the maintenance of Coast Guard personnel records during World War I contain little to no information. However, at war's end, the Coast Guard Yeomanettes, along with their Navy and Marine Corps counterparts, were mustered out of the service (Wilson, 2004).

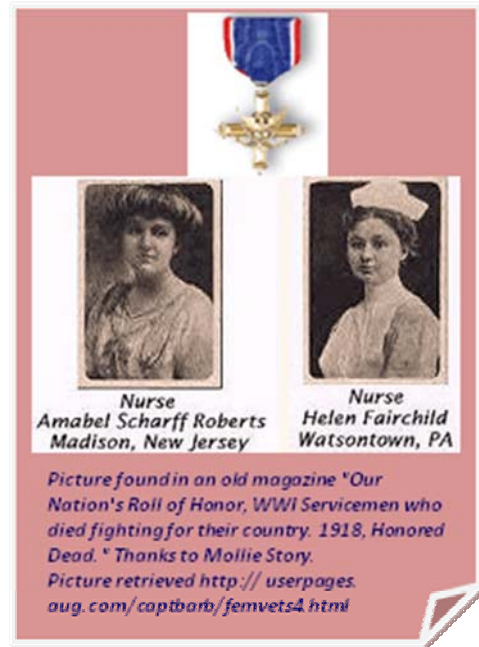


Women, like men, did serve in Belgium, Italy, England, and on troop trains and transport ships. According to Wilson (2004):

At least three Army nurses were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nations' second highest military honor. Several received the Distinguished Service Medal, our highest noncombat award, and over twenty were awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

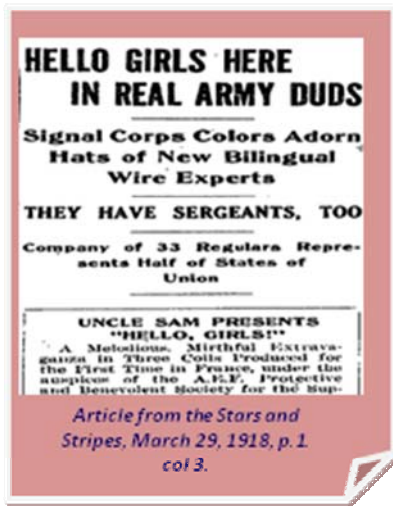
During WWI, nurses were wounded and several died overseas and were buried in military cemeteries far from home (Wilson, 2004). When President Woodrow Wilson pushed the passing of the 19th Amendment, he proclaimed:

"...Are we alone to ask and take the utmost that our women can give, service and sacrifice of every kind, and still say we do not see what title that gives them to stand by our sides in the guidance of the affairs of their nations and ours? We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?" (Wilson, 2004).



In addition to the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, World War I was the first war in which American women were recruited to serve in the military. However, women serving as Telephone Systems Operators (also known as "Hello Girls") in the Army Signal Corps were not widely known in the U.S. Reports in the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper recorded the fact that the Army Signal Corps did have women serving in the European theater during World War I in roles other than nurses. For example, a March 29, 1918 article in the *Stars and Stripes* acknowledges that the "Hello Girls" are here (*Hello Girls Here*, 1918).

The recruitment of women started when General Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, mounted an advertising campaign for bilingual telephone operators for the Army Signal Corps. During this campaign, more than 200 of the over 7,000 female applicants were hired. They became known as "Hello Girls," and worked as Bell Telephone System Operators in France from March of 1918 through the end of the war (Library of Congress, *n.d.*). However, these women did not receive recognition until 1978 when Congress finally passed a bill to recognize the 223 women as veterans (Wilson, 2004).



Women's Suffrage – 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

While other groups of people were struggling to achieve equal rights protection, some fairly successfully, it appeared that women kept running into barriers in many social and military institutions. Women could not participate in military organizations, nor were they expected to, and the social norm was that women were to be in supportive and family roles. Some considered women to be inferior to men. However, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920 and stated:

Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2: Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

(Linder, 2008).

The passing of the 19th Amendment was a victory for women, but they, along with other minority groups, would continue to fight for full equality and inclusion.

World War II – (1940 – 1945)

As the U.S. continued to slowly integrate its ranks, the growing threat in Europe and Asia caused some U.S. citizens to become uneasy with Germans, Italians, and Japanese Americans and immigrants, as they were seen as enemies. Many immigration laws were passed. For example, in 1943 Congress repealed all the exclusion acts, leaving a yearly limit of 105 Chinese immigrants and gave foreign-born Chinese the right to seek naturalization. The so-called national origin system, with various modifications, lasted until Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1965. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, significantly impacting the status of individuals of Japanese descent. This order would quickly lead to the internment of any persons with Japanese ancestry.

Japanese Internment

Executive Order 9066 authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders to:

Prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion... (Conrat & Conrat, 1992).

This ultimately led to General John L. DeWitt issuing an order on March 2, 1942 declaring California, Oregon and Washington as military strategic areas and excluding any and all persons of Japanese descent (Conrat & Conrat, 1992, p.22). They were pushed into internment camps at Manzanar and Tule Lake California; Poston and Gila River Arizona; Topaz, Utah; Minidoka, Idaho; Granada, Colorado; Jerome Arkansas; and Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

In the words from Donald Pike and Roger Olmsted (Conrat & Conrat, 1992):

In the spring of 1942 the government of the United States began the removal and internment of 110,000 of its residents, two-thirds of them native-born Americans. The 'relocation,' as it was called, applied to all citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. These citizens and residents were not individually charged – rather they were collectively ordered to report for internment.

Native Americans

The outbreak of World War II brought Native American warriors back to the battlefield in defense of their homeland. They fought in surprisingly large numbers:

Although now eligible for the draft by virtue of the Snyder Act, which gave citizenship to American Indians in 1924, conscription alone does not account for the disproportionate number of Indians who joined the armed services (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).

No group that participated in World War II made a greater per capita contribution. The total Native American population was less than 350,000; more than 44,000 fought in both the European and Pacific theaters of war between 1941 and 1945 (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).

Native Americans were honored during World War II by receiving numerous Purple Hearts, Air Medals, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Crosses, and three Congressional Medals of Honor. Indian participation in World War II was so extensive that it later became part of American folklore and popular culture.

Seven-thousand-five hundred Native Americans were enlisted in the summer of 1942; this number jumped to 22,000 by the beginning of 1945. The 1942 Selective Service estimates that at least 99 percent of healthy male Indians ages 21 to 44 had registered for the draft. The Selective Service further stated that "if the entire population had enlisted in the same proportion as Indians, the response would have rendered Selective Service unnecessary" (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*). Five-thousand Native Americans were in the military as of Pearl Harbor Day; by the end of the war, a total of 44,500 Native Americans had served, more than 10 percent of the group's population at the time (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*). In some tribes, the percentage of men in the military reached as high as 70 percent. Also, several hundred Indian women served in the WACS, WAVES, and Army Nurse Corps.

During World War II, Native American such as Lt. Ernest Childers (Creek), Lt. Jack Montgomery (Cherokee), and Lt. Van Barfoot (Choctaw), all of the famed 45th "Thunderbird" Infantry Division, won Medals of Honor in Europe.

Lt. Childers had first distinguished himself in Sicily, where he received a battlefield commission. Later in Italy, unaided and despite severe wounds, he destroyed three German machine gun emplacements (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*). During the Anzio Campaign in Italy, Lt. Montgomery attacked a German strongpoint single-handed, killing eleven of the enemy and taking thirty-three prisoners. Lt. Barfoot knocked out two machine gun nests and captured seventeen prisoners during the breakout from Anzio to Rome. He subsequently defeated three German tanks and carried two wounded men to safety (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*). Joseph J. "Jocko" Clark, the first Indian (Cherokee) to graduate from Annapolis, participated in carrier battles in the Pacific and became an admiral in the U.S. Navy.

In spite of years of inefficient and often corrupt bureaucratic management of Indian affairs, Native Americans stood ready to fight. American Indians overcame past disappointment, resentment, and suspicion to respond to their nation's need in

World War II. Native Americans, just as other U.S. Americans, responded to America's call for soldiers because they understood the need to defend one's own land, and they understood fundamental concepts of fighting for life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Pueblo tribe contributed 213 men to the armed forces, 10 percent of their population of 2,205. Wisconsin Chippewas at the Lac Oreilles Reservation contributed 100 men from a population of 1,700. Nearly all the able-bodied Chippewas at the Grand Portage Reservation enlisted. Blackfeet Indians enlisted in droves. Navajo Indians responded by sending 3,600 into military service; 300 lost their lives. Many volunteered from the Fort Peck Sioux-Assinibois Reservation in Montana, the descendants of the Indians that defeated Custer (Department of Defense, *n.d.a*).

Black Americans

Despite the fact that Black American men continued to volunteer to fight the nation's wars, "in the 'Jim Crow' world of pre-1945 America, Black servicemen confronted not only the hostility of enemies abroad but that of enemies at home" (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*). As Black leaders continued to fight for equal rights and treatment, pressure on the U.S. government was making some progress. For example, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act on September 16, 1940. "The act contained an anti-discrimination clause and established a 10 percent quota system to ensure integration" (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*). However, Assistant Secretary of War Robert Patterson issued a memo on segregation that seemingly contradicted the new legislation's racial policy; thus, keeping segregation within the U.S. Army ranks intact.

Black leaders continued to fight for flight training, the admission of Black women into Red Cross and military nursing units, and desegregation of the armed forces. "President Roosevelt issued a statement on 9 October 1940 that argued against the latter demand on the basis that it would adversely impact national defense" (Redstone Arsenal

Historical Information, *n.d.*). Regardless, Black leaders and Republicans continued to pressure the President to do more. "On October 15, 1940, just before the November elections, President Roosevelt approved the promotion of Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., to the rank of brigadier general, making him the highest ranking African American in the armed forces" (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*). Additionally, flight training for Blacks was planned and more Blacks were drafted.

On December 18, 1940, the U.S. Army Air Corps sent plans to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama concerning the training of African American pilots. In 1941, despite General Henry H. Arnold's disagreement of implementing a program to make African American pilots, he implemented the plans with some restrictions. He also made several attempts to disband the program. However, due to political considerations and increasing reports of the combat successes achieved by Black aviators, Arnold was forced to stop tampering with the Tuskegee Airmen (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*).

In addition to flight programs approved for Black Americans, in 1941 the U.S. Army activated the 366th Infantry Regiment, the first all-black Regular Army unit officered by African Americans only. According to Redstone Arsenal Historical Information (*n.d.*), the U.S. Army established the 78th Tank Battalion, the first Black armor unit, on January 13, 1941. The 78th was re-designated on 8 May 1941 as the 758th Tank Battalion (Light). It was the first of three tank battalions comprising the 5th Tank Group, which was made up of Black enlisted men and White officers. The other two tank battalions were the 761st and 784th. Initially inactivated on 22 September 1945 at Viareggio, Italy, the 758th was reactivated in 1946 and later fought in the Korean War as the 64th Tank Battalion.

In February of 1941, the 1st Battalion, 351st Field Artillery Regiment was activated at Camp Livingston, Louisiana, as part of the 46th Field Artillery Brigade. Redesignated the 351st Field Artillery Battalion in 1943, the unit arrived in Europe in December 1944. The African American

enlisted personnel were officered by 16 Blacks and 15 Whites. While stationed in England from December 1944 to February 1945, the 351st Field Artillery Group-Colored's 50-man Caisson Choir sang for the British public in such notable places as Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. After being transferred to France in March 1945, the unit was attached to the 9th U.S. Army. While engaged in fighting with the Germans, the 361st fired over 6200 rounds of 155mm Howitzer artillery ammunition into enemy territory.

With Black American men enlisting in the military, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. completed several notable inspections involving Black troops, pointing out how "Jim Crow" laws in the military represented the attitudes of military leaders and those of U.S. society. These attitudes, according to BG Davis, continued to create racial tension and degraded the morale of the African American soldier.

Finally, in July of 1941, The Army opened its integrated officer's candidate schools. Though the schools were intended to break down racial barriers for Black men, according to the Redstone Arsenal Historical Information (*n.d.*):

For the first 6 months, however, only 21 of the more than 2000 men admitted were Black. Whites protested the policy and some Black leaders demanded a quota be established to ensure parity, but the Army justified its policy of ignoring race in regard to officer training on the grounds of efficiency and economy.

The U.S. Army Air Corps began training African American pilots at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama on July 19, 1941.

Compared to the U.S. Army, the Navy became more restricted in its assignments to Blacks during World War II. According to Sylvester (1995):

Most black Navy men were limited to tours of duty on shore or around small coastal harbors. By 1943, two segregated units, the USS MASON and the Submarine Chaser, the PC 1264, were granted full sailing duties. Over 150,000 Blacks served in the NAVY during World War II. The first black Naval Officer was assigned to an all black crew on the Submarine Chaser in 1943.

The Marine Corps' 167 year ban on excluding Blacks was not lifted until three years after the beginning of World War II (Sylvester, 1995). In 1942, the first Black Marine was enlisted. Marine Corps records indicate that about 17,000 Black men served in World War II; most were assigned to service units such as depot and ammunition companies (Sylvester, 1995).

Although the armed forces reluctantly recruited Blacks into military service, several performed deeds worthy of receiving the Medal of Honor. However, racist attitudes influenced military leaders' decisions as to who was awarded the prestigious medal. Not one African American received this honor for their bravery and self-sacrifice deserved at the time. It took over 70 years for the United States to rectify this error for WWI and over 50 years for WWII (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*).

Hispanics

Like other groups trying to prove their loyalty to the United States, Hispanic Americans volunteered and fought valiantly in critical battles during World War II without being recognized for their contributions. One unit, the 158th Regimental Combat Team (also known as the "Bush Masters") fought in critical battles on April 1945 in Luzon, Philippine Islands. This battle led to the opening of the Visayan passage, which supported allied shipping in the Pacific. The Bicol Campaign lasted for two months "in terrain laced with tank traps, wire, mines and bamboo thickets" (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003). The 158th

Regimental Combat Team was mainly made up of Mexican Americans and North American Indians from 20 tribes (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003). According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (2003), the 158th Regimental Combat Team “was one of World War II’s few organizations to complete the trail from ‘down under’ to Japan.”



“Cuidado – Take Care, Bushmasters!”

Picture and information on picture retrieved from <http://www.history.army.mil/art/P-P/USAIA/Cuidado.htm>

While the services struggled to integrate non-white troops, they also struggled to properly recognize service members for their contributions. In the year 2008, the military is seeking to upgrade Pfc. Guy Gabaldon’s Navy Cross for his heroic actions in World War II. Pfc. Gabaldon was a Marine who fought in World War II against Japan. According to Adrian Sainze from the Associated Press (2008):

Pfc. Gabaldon, roamed Saipan's caves and pillboxes, persuading enemy soldiers and civilians to surrender during the hellish World War II battle on the island. Using the Japanese language skills he learned as a boy, he warned the Japanese they would die if they stayed hidden and told them Marines weren't torturers,

as they had heard. The Marines, he said, would feed them and give them medical care. Many agreed, and Gabaldon, just 18, led them back to U.S. lines. By the battle's end, Gabaldon had coaxed more than 1,000 Japanese out of the steamy caves. He was praised as being brave and compassionate, and he received a Silver Star –later upgraded to a Navy Cross. His actions were recounted on television and in movies. Now, almost two years after his death, there's a renewed campaign to give Gabaldon the Medal of Honor.

Asians

Similar to some of the struggles that Black Americans had entering the service in previous wars, many Asians found themselves classified as “4-C,” which was a classification identifying them as enemy aliens, despite being US citizens. Consequently, many of the 5,000 Japanese Americans in the U.S. armed forces were discharged. Regardless, second generation Japanese in the United States (known as Nisei) volunteered to form the 100th Infantry Battalion (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*). The 100th Infantry was assigned to North Africa in June of 1943 where they joined the 34th Division in combat. By September 1943, the 100th Infantry was fighting in Italy and came to be known as the “Purple Heart Battalion” due to their high casualty rate (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*).

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), including Nisei volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland United States, was formed in January 1943 (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*). In 1944, the 442nd and 100th Infantry Battalion joined forces in Europe and achieved high success. Due to the “stunning success of Nisei in combat,” Nisei in the detention camps were drafted in January of 1944 to increase the ranks of the 442nd (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*). The 442nd RCT eventually consisted of the 2nd, 3rd,

and 100th Battalions; the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; the 232nd Engineering Company; the 206th Army Band; Anti- Tank Company; Cannon Company; and Service Company (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*). The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd RCT became the most decorated unit in the U.S. military. There were over 18,000 individual decorations for bravery, 9,500 Purple Hearts, and seven Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations. (National Japanese Historical Society, *n.d.*; Williams, 2000). In May of 2000, the U.S. Government recommended that 21 Asian Americans have their Distinguished Crosses upgraded to the Medal of Honor. According to Senator Akaka (Senator of Hawaii):

“A prevailing climate of racial prejudice against Asian Pacific Americans during World War II precluded this basic fairness, the most egregious example being the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans,” Akaka said. “The bias, discrimination and hysteria of that time unfortunately had an impact on the decision to award the military’s highest honor to Asian and Pacific Islanders” (Williams, 2000).

According to Conrat and Conrat (1992), the ironic footnote written by young Japanese American men in Europe and the Pacific was that:

Japanese American soldiers served hazardous duty with specialized units like Merrill’s Marauders, while others serving as interpreters, provided probably the most important link in American Intelligence. The 442nd Combat Team, an all-Japanese American unit fighting in Italy and France, emerged with more casualties and more decorations than any other unit of comparable size and length of service in the Army’s history. In all,

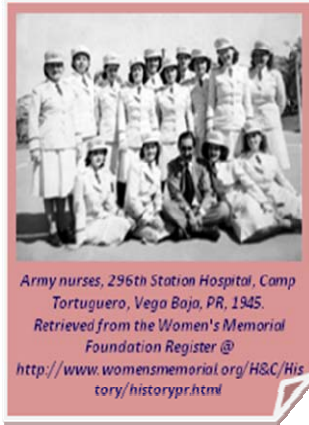
more than 24,000 Japanese Americans served – and many died in the armed forces during the war while many had family members who were in the Japanese Internment Camps.

Women

As in previous wars, women continued to volunteer and contribute significantly even though they were still excluded from combat. Women (as in World War I) served mainly as nurses. According to Jone Johnson Lewis (*n.d.*), about 74,000 women served in the American Army and Navy Nurse Corps in World War II. Even though women were excluded from combat, women were in harm’s way and some were killed. Women also served in the other military branches as secretaries or custodial jobs and in Navy shipyards. The U.S. Air Force did allow female pilots, but they were not seen as military service members. According to Lewis (*n.d.*), “more than 1,000 women served as pilots associated with the US Air Force in the WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots) but were considered civil service workers, and weren’t recognized for their military service until the 1970s” (Lewis, *n.d.*). The following are the figures for women in the U.S. military during World War II (Lewis, *n.d.*):

Army - 140,000
Navy - 100,000
Marines - 23,000
Coast Guard - 13,000
Air Force - 1,000
Army and Navy Nurse Corps - 74,000

With Puerto Ricans having received American citizenship in 1917, many Puerto Rican men were drafted to service. Hence, Puerto Rican nurses, like other women, began to volunteer to enter the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. Many worked at San Juan and also served as interpreters, utilizing their bilingual skills (Women in Military Service for America, *n.d.b*).



SUMMARY

Regardless of the barriers that Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Women,

and other groups have had to face and continually break down, all groups served in the U.S. Armed Forces with courage and honor, and many times without proper recognition. With the end of WWII, the U.S. military establishment slowly began to make some headway against racial discrimination and segregation within its ranks. The stage was now set for President Harry S. Truman's landmark Executive Order of 26 July 1948. (Redstone Arsenal Historical Information, *n.d.*). Additionally, numerous military and civilian leaders (White, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander, men and women) fought for equality, regardless of the barriers blocking that path. These struggles paved the path to the integration of the armed forces and the rising of the Civil Rights Era.

ARMED FORCES INTEGRATION 1940 – 1965

WOMEN'S ARMED SERVICES ACT – JUNE 1948

In June of 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which authorized regular and reserve status for women in the military Services (Department of Defense, 1998). Prior to this Act, women were not eligible to serve in the regular forces, except in the nurse corps. However, with the passage of the Act, “women won an important battle in their fight for the opportunity to serve in the United States Armed Forces” (Department of Defense, 1998).

On 31 July 1998, Michael Beschloss made the following statement on “One Nation, One Army,” *A News Hour with Jim Lehrer* (Bellafaire, 2006):

“One month after signing the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, President Truman took a third step meant to encourage recruitment when he issued Executive Order 9981, mandating an end to racial discrimination and segregation in the US Armed Forces. Of course this order did not immediately end all racially discriminatory practices in the military. Initially, some military leaders, such as Army Chief of Staff GEN Omar Bradley and Army Secretary Kenneth Royal, were reluctant to implement the President’s order. Less than total support at the top of the chain of command made it easy for some commanders to drag their heels for as long as possible.”

Therefore, with women now having won the right to serve in the armed forces, Congress was faced with dealing with racially segregated units, while at the same time continuing to fight the nation’s battles.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981 – 26 JULY 1948

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981. This policy was historic, stating:

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.”

(For more information on Executive Order 9981, visit the Truman Library at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/9981a.htm>)

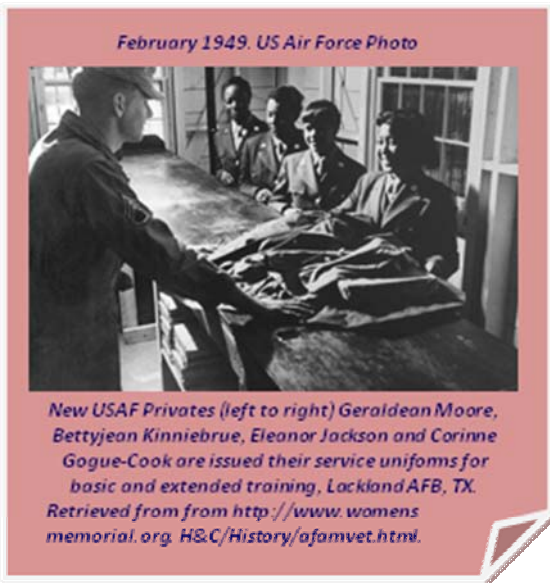
This Executive Order was signed two years prior to the start of the Korean War. The Executive Order also appointed a Presidential Committee to establish a plan to eliminate segregation. This committee’s findings determined that the best way to maximize human resources was to integrate the ranks. Hence, as the Korean War began, the complete elimination of segregated units was not complete, but the road to desegregation and the intermixing of different racial groups with White units was occurring, and the Executive Order paved the road for future integration to occur (Sylvester, 1995).

Integration Realities

Racial integration took place unevenly, with each service setting its own pace. Because women comprised such a small percentage of the force, the number of training facilities, bases and posts to which they were assigned was also small, and the majority of these were integrated quickly and without fanfare.

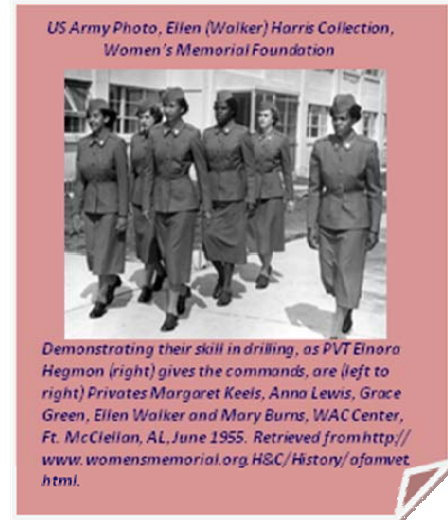
In 1949 the first two Black female Marines entered basic training. In 1950 the Navy integrated

its 25 Black enlisted women and two Black female officers. The Army and Air Force also integrated basic and advanced training classes for women quickly, the Air Force in 1949 and the Army in 1950.



The integration of women's barracks and quarters sometimes took longer. For example, an Army nurse who served in Korea during the war remembered that quarters were integrated while she was there. The Women's Army Corps (WAC) and the Army Nurse barracks at the 98th General Hospital in Germany were integrated in 1951; however, it was 1953 before the nurses' quarters at the Army's Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek, MI, were integrated. According to historians within six years of the issuance of Executive Order 9981, "the tradition of racial segregation had collapsed throughout the armed forces."

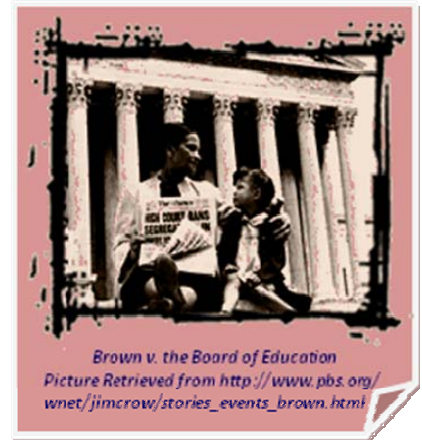
While the military was struggling with implementing integration policies, the U.S. civilian society continued to struggle with public racial integration.



Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education (1954)

With the passing of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments, previously excluded groups had more mobility in society. However, for most minority groups, especially Black Americans, social equality was not a reality, regardless of the protection guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and as reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Plessy versus Ferguson challenge in the late 1800s.

After years of challenging States and the U.S. Supreme Court about segregation policies, Brown versus the Board of Education of Topeka, K.S. served as the "most significant judicial turning points in the development of our country" (Brown Foundation for Education Equity, Excellence and Research, 2004). Originally led by Charles H. Houston, and later Thurgood Marshall and a formidable legal team, the case dismantled the legal basis for racial



segregation in schools and other public facilities and served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement (Brown Foundation for Education Equity, Excellence and Research, 2004).

KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

As the U.S. continued to make advances in the Civil Rights Movement and integration in the armed forces, “distrust of communism and the spread of its ideology” became a focal point for the country (Sylvester, 1995). As a result, President Truman made the decision to stop North Korea’s advances into South Korea. This was an extremely tough war for the American troops; especially since the weather, terrain, and fields “demanded alert foot soldiers to keep abreast of enemy attacks” (Sylvester, 1995). According to Sylvester (1995), these factors forced military top brass to seriously look at the current segregation policies. Moreover, two years prior to the Korean War, President Truman signed the Women’s Armed Services Act and implemented policies to desegregate the services. The Korean War was the first time U.S. military units were integrated. According to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy and Equal Opportunity (1991) (Williams, 1996):

As the fighting escalated, White combat units began to take many casualties. It was indeed popular for military commanders to replace Whites killed and wounded with other Whites, as had always been the practice before the advent of equality of opportunity and treatment.

However, during the Korean War, integration was occurring within the ranks like never before, and regardless of the race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin or sex of a service member, all fought with honor!

Native Americans

Despite the struggles of military leaders in implementing the Women’s Armed Services Act and Executive Order 9981 to desegregate the services, battle-experienced American Indian troops from World War II were joined by newly recruited Native Americans to fight Communist aggression during the Korean conflict. Some of these Native American heroes are:

- Corporal Red Cloud, a member of Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during an attack by communist forces near Chonghyon, South Korea, on Nov. 5, 1950
- Private First Class Charles George, a Cherokee from North Carolina, followed the ancient warrior tradition, when, on Nov. 30, 1952, he sacrificed his life to save the lives of his fellow soldiers and was awarded the Medal of Honor
- Captain Raymond Harvey, a Chickasaw, commanding officer of Company C, 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division, awarded the Medal of Honor for an action on March 9, 1951, near Taerni-dong, South Korea

The following was inscribed on a monument dedicated to Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr.:

"The son of a Winnebago chief and warriors who believe that when a man goes into battle, he expects to kill or be killed and if he dies he will live forever." These are the words inscribed on the monument erected in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and dedicated to the memory of Korean War hero Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., the first Winnebago to be awarded the Medal of Honor" (Department of Defense (n.d.c).

Corporal Red Cloud Jr. was the first Winnebago to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during an attack by communist forces near Chonghyon, South Korea, on Nov. 5, 1950. His citation reads:

Citation: Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a



brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him. Springing up he delivered devastating pointblank automatic rifle fire into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its

defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance he pulled himself to his feet and wrapping his arm around a tree continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded. Cpl. Red Cloud's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

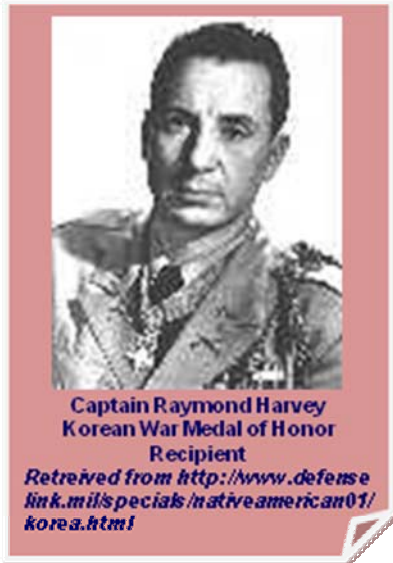
Another warrior to receive the prestigious Medal of Honor was Private First Class Charles George who sacrificed his life to save his fellow soldiers. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

Citation: Pfc. George, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. Pfc. George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The 2 soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. Pfc. George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Finally, Captain Raymond Harvey, the commanding officer of Company C, 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on March 9, 1951.

Citation: Capt. Harvey Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. When his company was pinned down by a barrage of automatic weapons fire from numerous well-entrenched emplacements,

imperiling accomplishment of its mission, Capt. Harvey braved a hail of fire and exploding grenades to advance to the first enemy machine gun nest, killing its crew with grenades. Rushing to the edge of the next emplacement, he killed its crew with carbine fire. He then moved the 1st Platoon forward until it was again halted by a curtain of automatic fire from well fortified hostile positions. Disregarding the hail of fire, he personally charged and neutralized a third emplacement.



Miraculously escaping death from intense crossfire, Capt. Harvey continued to lead the assault. Spotting an enemy pillbox well camouflaged by logs, he moved close enough to sweep the emplacement with carbine fire and throw grenades through the openings, annihilating its 5 occupants. Though wounded he then turned to order the company forward, and, suffering agonizing pain, he continued to direct the reduction of the remaining hostile positions, refusing evacuation until assured that the mission would be accomplished. Capt. Harvey's valorous and intrepid actions served as an inspiration to his company, reflecting the utmost glory upon himself and upholding the heroic traditions of the military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Equally eager to defend the United States against communism and aggression were Black Americans. Hence, as desegregation was slowly occurring, Blacks continued to be drafted and serve with honor as the Korean War thrust the U.S. into another battle on foreign soil.

Black Americans

While many Blacks served in the Korean War, many have been forgotten, according to Ernest K "Ernie" Shaw, a Korean War veteran and a Silver Star Medal recipient. According to Shaw, Blacks must "legitimize" and "thread their own needles and make people aware of what we (Black Americans) contributed" (Williams, 1996). Additionally, Shaw stated that the "Korean War was the first American war since the Spanish American War that African Americans were credited by the United States for their battlefield heroics" (Williams, 1996). In particular, two of the Black Soldiers who received the Medal of Honor were Army PFC William Thompson and Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton. Their citations read as follows:

Pfc. Thompson, William

Citation: Pfc. Thompson, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While his platoon was reorganizing



under cover of darkness, fanatical enemy forces in overwhelming strength launched a surprise attack on the unit. Pfc. Thompson set up his machine gun in the path of the onslaught and swept the enemy with withering fire, pinning them down momentarily thus permitting the remainder of his platoon to withdraw to a more tenable position.

Although hit repeatedly by grenade fragments and small-arms fire, he resisted all efforts of his comrades to induce him to withdraw, steadfastly remained at his machine gun and continued to deliver deadly, accurate fire until mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Pfc. Thompson's dauntless courage and gallant self-

sacrifice reflect the highest credit on himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Sergeant Charlton, Cornelius H.

Citation: Sgt. Charlton, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call



of duty in action against the enemy. His platoon was attacking heavily defended hostile positions on commanding ground when the leader was wounded and evacuated. Sgt. Charlton assumed command, rallied the men, and spearheaded the assault against the hill. Personally eliminating 2 hostile positions and killing 6 of the enemy with his rifle fire and grenades, he continued up the slope

until the unit suffered heavy casualties and became pinned down. Regrouping the men he led them forward only to be again hurled back by a shower of grenades. Despite a severe chest wound, Sgt. Charlton refused medical attention and led a third daring charge which carried to the crest of the ridge. Observing that the remaining emplacement which had retarded the advance was situated on the reverse slope, he charged it alone, was again hit by a grenade but raked the position with a devastating fire which eliminated it and routed the defenders. The wounds received during his daring exploits resulted in his death but his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself the infantry, and the military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

became the first Black to receive the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross and the first Black Navy combat pilot. (Williams, 2006)

Finally, during the Korean War, Black officers were integrated in the ranks for the first time. Shaw (Williams, 2006) stated:

It was important for us to prevail and conduct ourselves with courage. How we conducted ourselves would impact how those who followed us would be treated and used.

Hispanics

Similar to Native and Black Americans, Hispanic Americans too answered the call to duty when the Korean War broke out. Many of the Hispanic soldiers who fought in Korea were members of the all-Hispanic U.S. Army unit better known as the 65th Infantry Regiment.

The 65th Infantry Regiment

On August 25, 1950, the U.S. 3d Infantry Division's all-Hispanic 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," shipped out from Puerto Rico and sailed directly for Korea. Many members were direct descendants of the Borinqueneer Indian tribe who once inhabited Puerto Rico (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003). The 65th joined U.S. forces holding the Pusan Perimeter against the invading

In addition to PFC Thompson and SGT Charlton's accomplishments, Ensign Jesse L. Brown



- 125 Silver Stars
- The American Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations
- 2 Korean Presidential Unit Citations
- The Greek Gold Medal for Bravery



North Korean Peoples Army (NKPA) and immediately took part in the "U.S. breakout and drive to the north" (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003). In late October 1950, the Eighth U.S. Army was overrun by a large Chinese Army, which led to one of the greatest fighting retreats in history. As the outnumbered Marines battled their way southeast to the coast:

The 65th Infantry Regiment, along with other elements of the 3d Infantry Division, was assigned to protect the 1st Marine Division's withdrawal from Hagaru-ri and later the perimeter around Hungnam Harbor as United Nations forces evacuated the area aboard troopships (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003).

In late January, the 65th Regiment received orders to take two hills held by the Chinese 149th Division. Within three days, the 65th Infantry Regiment captured the two hills forcing the Chinese to flee. The 65th is credited with the capture of 2,086 enemy soldiers and with killing 5,905 (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2003). Additionally, according to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (2003), the 65th Infantry Regiment earned the following awards:

- 4 Distinguished Service Crosses

Many Hispanic American soldiers saw fierce action in Korea, where battles were fought in some of the most mountainous terrain in the world and bitter engagements took place during winter months. Eight U.S. Hispanic service members were awarded the Medal of Honor:

- Private First Class Garcia, Fernando Luis, U.S. Marine Corps, Company I, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.)
- Private First Class Garcia, Gomez, Edward, U.S. Marine Corps, Reserve, Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.)
- Staff Sergeant Guillen, Ambrosio, U.S. Marine Corps, Company F, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.)
- Corporal, Hernandez, Rodolfo P., U.S. Army, Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team
- First Lieutenant Lopez, Balamero, U.S. Marine Corps, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.)
- Corporal, Martinez, Benito, U.S. Army, Company A, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division

- Private First Class Obregon, Eugene Arnold, U.S. Marine Corps, Company G, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.)
- Sergeant (then Private First Class) Rodriguez, Joseph C., U.S. Army, Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

Their citations read as follows:

Private First Class Garcia, Fernando Luis

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a member of Company I, in action against enemy aggressor forces. While participating in the defense of a combat outpost located more than 1 mile forward of the main line of resistance during a savage night attack by a fanatical enemy force employing grenades, mortars, and artillery, Pfc. Garcia, although suffering painful wounds, moved through the intense hail of hostile fire to a supply point to secure more handgrenades. Quick to act when a hostile grenade landed nearby, endangering the life of another marine, as well as his own, he unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and immediately threw his body upon the deadly missile, receiving the full impact of the explosion. His great personal valor and cool decision in the face of almost certain death sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Private First Class Garcia, Gomez, Edward

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an ammunition bearer in Company E, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Bolding advancing with his squad in support of a group of riflemen assaulting a series of strongly fortified and bitterly defended hostile positions on Hill 749, Pfc. Gomez

consistently exposed himself to the withering barrage to keep his machine gun supplied with ammunition during the drive forward to seize the objective. As his squad deployed to meet an imminent counterattack, he voluntarily moved down an abandoned trench to search for a new location for the gun and, when a hostile grenade landed between himself and his weapon, shouted a warning to those around him as he grasped the activated charge in his hand. Determined to save his comrades, he unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and, diving into the ditch with the deadly missile, absorbed the shattering violence of the explosion in his body. By his stouthearted courage, incomparable valor, and decisive spirit of self-sacrifice, Pfc. Gomez inspired the others to heroic efforts in subsequently repelling the outnumbering foe, and his valiant conduct throughout sustained and enhanced the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Staff Sergeant Guillen, Ambrosio

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a platoon sergeant of Company F in action against enemy aggressor forces. Participating in the defense of an outpost forward of the main line of resistance, SSgt. Guillen maneuvered his platoon over unfamiliar terrain in the face of hostile fire and placed his men in fighting positions. With his unit pinned down when the outpost was attacked under cover of darkness by an estimated force of 2 enemy battalions supported by mortar and artillery fire, he deliberately exposed himself to the heavy barrage and attacks to direct his men in defending their positions and personally supervise the treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Inspired by his leadership, the platoon quickly rallied and engaged the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand combat. Although critically wounded during the course of the battle, SSgt. Guillen refused medical aid and continued to direct his men

throughout the remainder of the engagement until the enemy was defeated and thrown into disorderly retreat. Succumbing to his wounds within a few hours, SSgt. Guillen, by his outstanding courage and indomitable fighting spirit, was directly responsible for the success of his platoon in repelling a numerically superior enemy force. His personal valor reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Corporal, Hernandez, Rodolfo P.

Citation: Cpl. Hernandez, a member of Company G, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His platoon, in defensive positions on Hill 420, came under ruthless attack by a numerically superior and fanatical hostile force, accompanied by heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the platoon. His comrades were forced to withdraw due to lack of ammunition but Cpl. Hernandez, although wounded in an exchange of grenades, continued to deliver deadly fire into the ranks of the onrushing assailants until a ruptured cartridge rendered his rifle inoperative. Immediately leaving his position, Cpl. Hernandez rushed the enemy armed only with rifle and bayonet. Fearlessly engaging the foe, he killed 6 of the enemy before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds but his heroic action momentarily halted the enemy advance and enabled his unit to counterattack and retake the lost ground. The indomitable fighting spirit, outstanding courage, and tenacious devotion to duty clearly demonstrated by Cpl. Hernandez reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

First Lieutenant Lopez, Baldomero

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a marine platoon commander of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces. With his platoon 1st Lt. Lopez was engaged in the reduction of immediate enemy beach defenses after landing with the assault waves. Exposing himself to hostile fire, he moved forward alongside a bunker and prepared to throw a hand grenade into the next pillbox whose fire was pinning down that sector of the beach. Taken under fire by an enemy automatic weapon and hit in the right shoulder and chest as he lifted his arm to throw, he fell backward and dropped the deadly missile. After a moment, he turned and dragged his body forward in an effort to retrieve the grenade and throw it. In critical condition from pain and loss of blood, and unable to grasp the hand grenade firmly enough to hurl it, he chose to sacrifice himself rather than endanger the lives of his men and, with a sweeping motion of his wounded right arm, cradled the grenade under him and absorbed the full impact of the explosion. His exceptional courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon 1st Lt. Lopez and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Corporal, Martinez, Benito

Citation. Cpl. Martinez, a machine gunner with Company A, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While manning a listening post forward of the main line of resistance, his position was attacked by a hostile force of reinforced company strength. In the bitter fighting which ensued, the enemy infiltrated the defense perimeter and, realizing that encirclement was imminent, Cpl. Martinez elected to remain at his post in an attempt to stem the onslaught. In a daring defense, he raked the attacking troops with crippling fire, inflicting numerous casualties. Although contacted by sound power phone several

times, he insisted that no attempt be made to rescue him because of the danger involved. Soon thereafter, the hostile forces rushed the emplacement, forcing him to make a limited withdrawal with only an automatic rifle and pistol to defend himself. After a courageous 6-hour stand and shortly before dawn, he called in for the last time, stating that the enemy was converging on his position. His magnificent stand enabled friendly elements to reorganize, attack, and regain the key terrain. Cpl. Martinez' incredible valor and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory upon himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Private First Class Obregon, Eugene Arnold

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company G, in action against enemy aggressor forces. While serving as an ammunition carrier of a machine gun squad in a marine rifle company which was temporarily pinned down by hostile fire, Pfc. Obregon observed a fellow marine fall wounded in the line of fire. Armed only with a pistol, he unhesitating dashed from his covered position to the side of the casualty. Firing his pistol with 1 hand as he ran, he grasped his comrade by the arm with his other hand and, despite the great peril to himself dragged him to the side of the road. Still under enemy fire, he was bandaging the man's wounds when hostile troops of approximately platoon strength began advancing toward his position. Quickly seizing the wounded marine's carbine, he placed his own body as a shield in front of him and lay there firing accurately and effectively into the hostile group until he himself was fatally wounded by enemy machine gun fire. By his courageous fighting spirit, fortitude, and loyal devotion to duty, Pfc. Obregon enabled his fellow marines to rescue the wounded man and aided essentially in repelling the attack, thereby sustaining and enhancing the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He

gallantly gave his life for his country (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

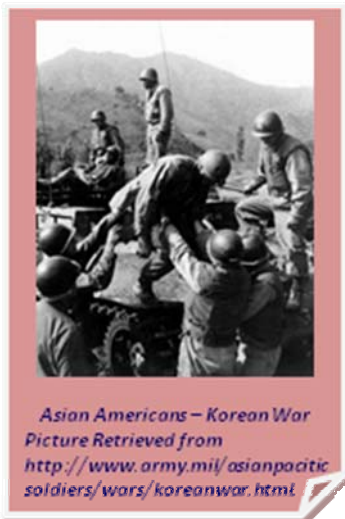
Sergeant (then Private First Class) Rodriguez, Joseph C.

Citation: Sgt. Rodriguez, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations. Sgt. Rodriguez, an assistant squad leader of the 2d Platoon, was participating in an attack against a fanatical hostile force occupying well-fortified positions on rugged commanding terrain, when his squad's advance was halted within approximately 60 yards by a withering barrage of automatic weapons and small-arms fire from 5 emplacements directly to the front and right and left flanks, together with grenades which the enemy rolled down the hill toward the advancing troops. Fully aware of the odds against him, Sgt. Rodriguez leaped to his feet, dashed 60 yards up the fire-swept slope, and, after lobbing grenades into the first foxhole with deadly accuracy, ran around the left flank, silenced an automatic weapon with 2 grenades and continued his whirlwind assault to the top of the peak, wiping out 2 more foxholes and then, reaching the right flank, he tossed grenades into the remaining emplacement, destroying the gun and annihilating its crew. Sgt. Rodriguez' intrepid actions exacted a toll of 15 enemy dead and, as a result of his incredible display of valor, the defense of the opposition was broken, and the enemy routed, and the strategic strongpoint secured. His unflinching courage under fire and inspirational devotion to duty reflect highest credit on himself and uphold the honored traditions of the military service (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2008).

Asians

Similar to other groups struggling to gain acceptance in the United States, the outstanding contributions of Asian military service members

during World War II led to their greater acceptance into the American society. This additionally led to many Asian World War II veterans remaining in the armed forces. Many Asian World War II combat veterans and new Asian Soldiers fought in the Korean War against the communist North Korean and Chinese forces.



Three Asian Americans received the nation's highest award, The Medal of Honor. These servicemen are:

- Corporal Hiroshi H. Miyamura, Company H, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division
- Sergeant Leroy A. Mendonca, Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division
- Private First Class Herbert K. Pililaau served in Company C, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division

Their citations read:

Corporal Hiroshi H. Miyamura

Citation: Cpl. Miyamura, a member of Company H, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. On the night of 24 April, Company H was occupying a defensive position when the enemy fanatically

attacked threatening to overrun the position. Cpl. Miyamura, a machinegun squad leader, aware of the imminent danger to his men unhesitatingly jumped from his shelter wielding his bayonet in close hand-to-hand combat killing approximately 10 of the enemy. Returning to his position, he administered first aid to the wounded and directed their evacuation. As another savage assault hit the line, he manned his machinegun and delivered withering fire until his ammunition was expended. He ordered the squad to withdraw while he stayed behind to render the gun inoperative. He then bayoneted his way through infiltrated enemy soldiers to a second gun emplacement and assisted in its operation. When the intensity of the attack necessitated the withdrawal of the company Cpl. Miyamura ordered his men to fall back while he remained to cover their movement. He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He maintained his magnificent stand despite his painful wounds, continuing to repel the attack until his position was overrun. When last seen he was fighting ferociously against an overwhelming number of enemy soldiers. Cpl. Miyamura's indomitable heroism and consummate devotion to duty reflect the utmost glory on himself and uphold the illustrious traditions on the military service (Asian American Medal of Honor Recipients, n.d.a).

Sergeant LeRoy A. Mendonca

Citation: Sgt. LeRoy A. Mendonca, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. After his platoon, in an exhaustive fight, had captured Hill 586, the newly won positions were assaulted during the night by a numerically superior enemy force. When the 1st Platoon positions were outflanked and under great pressure and the platoon was ordered to withdraw to a secondary line of defense, Sgt. Mendonca voluntarily remained in an exposed position and covered the platoon's withdrawal. Although under murderous enemy fire, he fired his weapon and

hurled grenades at the onrushing enemy until his supply of ammunition was exhausted. He fought on, clubbing with his rifle and using his bayonet until he was mortally wounded. After the action it was estimated that Sgt. Mendonca had accounted for 37 enemy casualties. His daring actions stalled the crushing assault, protecting the platoon's withdrawal to secondary positions, and enabling the entire unit to repel the enemy attack and retain possession of the vital hilltop position. Sgt. Mendonca's extraordinary gallantry and exemplary valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army (Asian American Medal of Honor Recipients, n.d.c).

Private First Class Herbert K. Pililaau

Citation: Pfc. Pililaau, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. The enemy sent wave after wave of fanatical troops against his platoon which held a key terrain feature on "Heartbreak Ridge." Valiantly defending its position, the unit repulsed each attack until ammunition became practically exhausted and it was ordered to withdraw to a new position. Voluntarily remaining behind to cover the withdrawal, Pfc. Pililaau fired his automatic weapon into the ranks of the assailants, threw all his grenades and, with ammunition exhausted, closed with the foe in hand-to-hand combat, courageously fighting with his trench knife and bare fists until finally overcome and mortally wounded. When the position was subsequently retaken, more than 40 enemy dead were counted in the area he had so valiantly defended. His heroic devotion to duty, indomitable fighting spirit, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army (Asian American Medal of Honor Recipients (n.d.b).

Vietnam – 1965 – 1973

Vietnam, from 1965-1973, became a very unpopular war. The death toll climbed each day. The dense tropical jungles, river valleys, and central highlands made the best of the American weaponry and troops seem at odds with the guerilla tactics of the unrelenting numbers of the Vietcong soldiers (Sylvester, 1995).

With the Civil Rights Movement in full swing and changes to immigration and naturalization laws, many previously excluded groups were now serving in an integrated armed force, and military leaders were still struggling to manage race relations within the ranks. Furthermore, draft boards were actively recruiting and drafting both men and women (Sylvester, 1995).

The Native American's strong sense of patriotism and courage emerged once again during the Vietnam era. More than 42,000 Native Americans, over 90 percent of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam.

African Americans were making slow progress toward integration. The Civil Rights Bill was passed on June 29, 1964, banning discrimination in voting, employment, and public accommodations (Sylvester, 1995). Despite the fact that educational, employment, and housing opportunities were not widespread for African Americans in 1965, they continued to enlist and serve in the armed forces. Additionally, unlike previous wars, African Americans gained more mobility in rank and respect. They were represented in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, and held both enlisted and officer ranks (Sylvester, 1995).

Women's roles were increasing in the military as they continued to struggle to gain full acceptance. However, this struggle did not prevent them from serving during Vietnam. According to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, approximately 700 WACs

(Women's Army Corps) served in theater of operations during the Vietnam War. Some of the women who served with distinction were Chief Warrant Officer Three (CW3) Doris Allen, Staff Sergeant (SSG) Edith Efferson and Specialist (SPC) Grendel Alice Howard.

CW3 Allen, just as other military and civilian women, encountered a typical problem in the workplace during the 1960s. Allen "was good at her job, so her supervisors did not want to lose her; however, they did not want to promote her either" (Bellafaire, 2006). Because she spoke a foreign language, and the Army needed linguists, CW3 Allen was able to find a route to mobility and success. She obtained approval to receive training at the Army Language School in French. Ultimately CW3 Allen ended up in Vietnam stationed at Long Binh from 1967-70. According to Bellafaire (2006), CW3 Allen recalls:

As a senior intelligence analyst in Vietnam, I was recognized for having been responsible through production of one specific intelligence report, for saving the lives of 'at least' 101 U.S. Marines fighting in Quang Tri Province.

Allen stated in an interview that initially, she had some difficulty in getting her chain of command to take her report seriously. Had she not been persistent and pushed her report forward, "it would have been buried" (Bellafaire, 2006).

With the Tet Offensive of 1968 being one of the most dangerous time periods in Vietnam, women continued to serve in the theater of operations. Army SSG Edith Efferson was

stationed at Long Binh as a supply sergeant during the Offensive. The ammunition depot at Long Binh, approximately 27 miles northeast of Saigon, was a primary target of the enemy, who attacked regularly with mortars. WACs stationed in this area frequently found themselves hitting the floor during the months of January and February to avoid the shattering glass, flying gravel, and other debris kicked up by the explosions. SSG Efferson played a key role in assisting other younger women throughout this difficult period.



Similarly, SPC Grendel Alice Howard, arrived in Vietnam in January 1968 in the middle of the Offensive. Bellafaire (2006) described Howard's role in Vietnam:

One aspect of her job involved traveling to subordinate units, interviewing soldiers, and writing stories about them for publication. By the end of SPC Howard's extended 34-month tour, she had been promoted to sergeant first class. She was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for her work in Vietnam and ended her military career as a sergeant major.

POST INTEGRATION PERIOD 1965 – Present

The post-integration period after 1965 and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s rapidly integrated the United States Armed Forces. Even though racial integration was occurring, gender exclusion was prevalent. With combat operations in Panama, Grenada, The Persian Gulf War, Somalia and the war in Iraq, the new millennium continued to challenge U.S. and military policies that still (in many cases) exclude women, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and at times, people with religions other than Christianity.

In the year 2008, military women have found themselves on a battlefield with no front lines and have saved the lives of numerous comrades. Military members who have previously been discharged for violations of the homosexuality policies have challenged the courts to overturn such discriminatory policies. Finally, the military has been known to discharge military members who have disabilities; however, military leaders have found ways to assist and accommodate some wounded combat veterans in their recovery and return to active duty.

Gender Integration at Service Academies



On October, 7, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-106, which granted women access to the military service academies. More than 300 women enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard

Academy (Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.). One of the first

women to enter and graduate from the Military Academy at West Point was Anne F. Macdonald, who is now a Brigadier General and is the U.S. Army Reserve Command Chief of Staff.

According to a speech that I heard Brigadier General MacDonald give to the 63rd

Readiness Reserve Command in March of 2008, she stated that some of the most difficult times at the U.S. Military

Academy were the times when she had to endure degrading comments and behavior from the male cadets. The prejudices and discriminatory behavior of male cadets were blatant and reinforced the norms of society that women did not belong in the military.

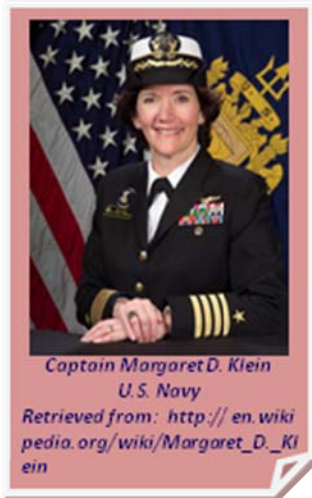
According to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., “male prejudice against women at the academies proved to be their biggest obstacles.” The integration of women forced academies to reconfigure barracks, facilities and locker space and alter some physical education requirements.



“In 1980, 66 percent of the women in the first coeducational classes graduated—comparable to 70 percent of the men whose attrition rate due to academic failure was twice that of women. But women service academy graduates posed new issues for the armed services. Would gender-based law and policy limit the careers of these highly qualified new officers?” (Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.)

Today, over 3,000 women have graduated from West Point and two female West Point Graduates, killed while serving in Iraq, are buried at the West Point cemetery (*Associated Press*, 2008). As a result of women's integration into the Army and into West Point, Army Lieutenant General Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck told a Congressional oversight that it is time to replace the words "men" and "sons" from the military academy's alma mater and its companion piece, "The Corps" (*Associated Press*, 2008). General Hagenbeck stated that this "change is long overdue." Women have been at West Point since 1976 and General Hagenbeck asked, "When are they going to be recognized for what they're doing?" (*Associated Press*, 2008). As a result, *USA Today* (June 5, 2008) reported that the West Point songs have gone gender neutral.

As for the Naval Academy, Captain Margaret D. Klein became part of the second class to admit women and went on to graduate in 1981. According to Capt Klein, "When I was here, there were a very small number of jobs that women could go into...Today, we're mainstream" (Mitchell, 2008). Capt Klein is the first woman to hold the Naval Academies' number two post, as the 82nd Commandant of Midshipmen, akin to an academic dean of students (Mitchell, 2008; WWJZ, 2006). One of her responsibilities is to prepare the young men and women to serve in war and prepare them for their commission. Capt Klein is currently waiting for the Senate to confirm her promotion to rear admiral (Mitchell, 2008).



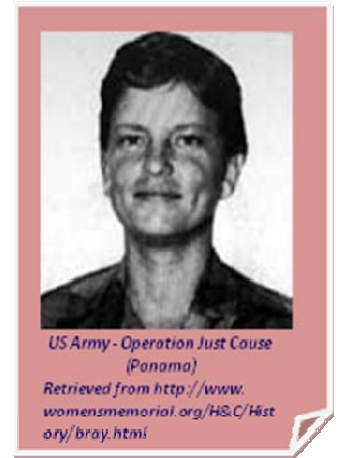
MILITARY COMBAT OPERATIONS THROUGH THE 1980S AND 1990S

Groups who had been previously excluded from service and society continued to demonstrate

their loyalty to their country by volunteering for military service during the combat operations of the 1980's and 1990's.

Panama and Grenada

In 1989, Captain Linda Bray, U.S. Army, became the first woman to lead U.S. troops in battle. CPT Bray commanded the 988th Military Police Company out of Fort Benning, GA. She was responsible for ordering her assault team to fire on soldiers of the Panamanian Defense Forces. This assault turned into a three-hour, infantry-style firefight.



Once again, the role of women in combat would come into question. However, Colorado Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder would call for legislation to open up all jobs in the Army. Congresswoman Schroeder felt that the combat exclusion policies limited the careers of women and they failed to keep women out of combat (Women in Military Service for America, *n.d.c*).

The Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991

The Persian Gulf War was the first war to have an African American in the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the U.S. Armed Forces lead a ground battle to oust the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. During the DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM Operations, integration of the armed forces was at the highest levels as never seen before in any U.S. war. (Sylvester, 1995)

*INTEGRATION IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**Gender Issues/Concerns*

Although women have served actively in the U.S. armed forces for more than a century, they mostly were limited to nursing and administrative roles intended to keep them far from the battlefield. Today, women can fly any aircraft, including those that engage in direct combat. They generally can serve in any role on the ground other than those typically involved in a front-line offensive assault: infantry, armor, mostly artillery units and Special Forces (Henningfeld, 2008, p.35).

There is no doubt that women have proven to be essential to all of America's wars, especially in the military effort in Iraq – "where tens of thousands have served – and are playing a bigger role than in any previous U.S. conflict" (Henningfeld, 2008, p.26). However, the combat exclusion rule continues to be a challenge for military and civilian leaders; especially since there are no front lines. The facts are that women make up 15 percent of the force, yet they are barred from 30 percent of active duty roles, including submarine, infantry, armor, artillery and Special Forces (Henningfeld, 2008, p.15). The reality is that the Global War on Terror (GWOT) cannot be accomplished without women, as identified by senior military leaders. According to Martin Van Creveld, "The real reason why women are excluded [from combat] is not military but cultural and social" and all that remains is to give women credit for meeting the challenge of the global war on terrorism with requisite skill and fortitude (Henningfeld, 2008, p.18). According to Henningfeld (2008), "Many commanders in Iraq say they see a widening gap between war-zone realities and policies designed to limit women's exposure to combat" (p.27), and this gap is forcing

commanders to make decisions that will more than likely violate the combat exclusion rule.

Women have become an integral part of the all-volunteer U.S. armed forces, growing from 2 percent of overall strength in 1972 to 15 percent today. They are playing a vital role in Iraq; making up about 10 percent of the nearly 135,000 soldiers deployed, they drive trucks, repair vehicles and equipment, deliver emergency medical care and provide security (Hennington, 2008, p.35).

Hence, while some people believe that women have no place on the battlefield, women in previous wars have demonstrated otherwise. In the Iraq War, women are integrated into all the armed forces and are performing heroic actions that deserve recognition. Private First Class Monica Brown's heroic actions earned her a Silver Star. According to Tyson (2008):

Pfc. Monica Brown cracked open the door of her Humvee outside a remote village in eastern Afghanistan to the pop of bullets shot by Taliban fighters. But instead of taking cover, the 18-year-old medic grabbed her bag and ran through gunfire toward fellow soldiers in a crippled and burning vehicle.

On March 2008, Vice President Cheney pinned the Silver Star on Pfc. Brown for "repeatedly risking her life on April 25, 2007, to shield and treat her wounded comrades, displaying bravery and grit (Tyson, 2008). PFC Brown is the second woman since World War II to receive the nation's third-highest combat medal. As in previous battles, manpower shortages pressured military leaders to ignore policies barring entry of non-White males and all females to enlist in the military. According to Lt. Martin Robbins, a platoon leader with Charlie Troop, 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, "We

weren't supposed to take her out" on missions "but we had to because there was no other medic." "By regulations you're not supposed to," he said, but Brown "was one of the guys, mixing it up, clearing rooms, doing everything that anybody else was doing." (Tyson, 2008)

"In Afghanistan as well as Iraq, female soldiers are often tasked to work in all-male combat units - not only for their skills but also for the culturally sensitive role of providing medical treatment for local women, as well as searching them and otherwise interacting with them. Such war-zone pragmatism is at odds with Army rules intended to bar women from units that engage in direct combat or collocate with combat forces" (Tyson, 2008).

Religion Issues/Concerns

While the military has dealt with gender and racial issues throughout its history, in the new millennium, military leaders are now finding themselves having to deal with growing religious concerns. Some U.S. service members do not feel that the military effectively integrates religions other than Christianity.

For example, in 2008, U.S. Army Specialist Jeremy Hall filed a lawsuit to sue the U.S. Army for religious discrimination. Specialist Hall stated that a senior leader within his organization threatened to bar him and another group of soldiers from reenlisting in the U.S. Army for having an atheist and freethinkers meeting at Camp Speicher in Iraq. The U.S. Army has policies that provide service members religious accommodation; however, Specialist Hall stated that "his right to be free from state endorsement of religion under the First Amendment had been violated" (Banerjee, 2008). Previously, in 2005, the Air Force Academy was accused of evangelical Christian officers using their positions to proselytize.

Ethnicity/National Origin Concerns and Immigration Laws

As the Nation continues to move forward, immigration issues are once again at the forefront of the 2008 Presidential Campaign. President Bush signed an executive order on July 3, 2002 that "expedited the process for alien and noncitizen military members serving on or after September 11, 2001, in the war on terror" (Sample, 2005). Several military members, who are not U.S. citizens have fought for the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan; and as in previous conflicts, previously excluded groups joined the armed forces as a way to demonstrate their dedication to the United States and with the hopes of being accepted in U.S. society. According Army PFC Ociel Dela-Sancha, 24, with the 4th Infantry Division, "he joined the military because he wanted the best for his family" (Sample, 2005).

On April 30, 2008, Ammar Almshab, an Iraqi Native, became a U.S. soldier just seven months after entering the United States (Roberts, 2008). Prior to becoming a U.S. soldier, Almshab worked as an interpreter with a military training team formed to support the 6th Iraqi Army Division. As an interpreter, "Almshab was targeted by insurgents because of his ability to seek out and provide accurate intelligence to coalition forces. During his service, he rode on combat patrols and attended high-level meetings with sheiks" (Roberts, 2008). Almshab also took the lead in a successful mission to free two hostages, where Westerners generally aren't allowed. Accordingly, just as previous U.S. Americans or immigrants have volunteered to serve a nation in the armed forces, immigrants, who many times do not have U.S. citizenship, willingly volunteer to support and defend the United States of America (Roberts, 2008). This has been a continual pattern for all groups of people who have entered the United States, which continues to make and keep the U.S. a strong nation.

CONCLUSION

While integration within the armed forces continues to prove to be imperative on the battlefield and to military readiness, it has not come without resistance and at times scandals. Military leaders have had to manage scandals such as the Navy's Tailhook, the Army's Aberdeen Proving Grounds, murders at Fort Bragg, N.C, the Air Forces' struggle with female integration into pilot positions, religious concerns at the Air Force Academy, and sexual assault across the services. Regardless of all the barriers that leaders and service members have had to overcome, the U.S. Armed Forces continue to be the leaders in inclusion and setting the standard for the world to model. Therefore, as the U.S. military continues to become more diverse, leaders must remember the consequences of exclusion.

As the United States Military celebrates 60 years of integration in the year 2008, one lesson that should remain with us is that:

Regardless of the heat of the moment, we must never lose sight of the inalienable and civil rights which we owe each other, and that such rights, universally applied, constitute the strongest shield for our country and society (Conrat & Conrat, 1992, p.9).

For that reason, it is vital that military and civilian leaders continue to remember why integration is central to the success of the mission of the Armed Forces and to the future of the United States of America.

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